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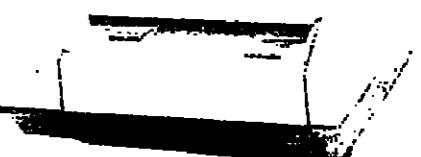
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# ARAB TIMES

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1989/JAMADIUL AWWAL 21, 1410 AH

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## Qaboos seeks progressive role to 'meet the needs of our own people'

# Oman urges GCC to match world change

Opinions differ on how to deal with Iran after the Gulf war.

MUSCAT, Dec 18, (Agencies): Gulf Arab leaders began a four-day summit in Muscat, Oman, today amid signs of disagreement on how to deal with Iran after the Gulf war, and debate on an Arab common market to exploit higher oil prices.

Opening the summit, Sultan Qaboos of Oman urged the GCC to adopt new policies that would catch up with new changes in the world stating that "a changing world entails from us to sort new policies that take into consideration and implementation these international changes."

In light of this, he added, "it is necessary to develop and activate co-ordination

mechanisms, and modernize the council's apparatus in a manner that would realize more flexibility and vividness on our collective work."

"We are well aware that we must have a progressive role to better meet the needs of our own people," Qaboos, who is hosting the summit, said.

"Our march must avoid mistakes made in regional groupings elsewhere," he said in the speech delivered in Arabic, and broadcast live on state-run Omani Television.

Leaders attending the Muscat summit were HH the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Jaber Al

Ahmed, King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan of United Arab Emirates, Sheikh Khalifa Bin Hamad Al Thani of Qatar and Sheikh Isa Bin Salman Al Khalifa of Bahrain.

The diplomats said items on the unannounced agenda were also expected to include the Palestinian uprising and the continuing crisis in Lebanon.

They said GCC leaders would play down joint military cooperation. The group's dominant economic power, Saudi Arabia, encouraged efforts to set up a joint defence force during the eight-year-long Iran-Iraq war.

Though joint military manoeuvres have taken place, GCC member-states have shown reluctance to sacrifice national sovereignty and place troops under GCC control.

The diplomats said differences on how to deal with post-war Iraq under its current pragmatist President Hojatolislam Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani will also come up for discussion at the summit.

United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and Oman believe that improving trade relations with cash-strapped Iran will bolster Rafsanjani's position and help Iranian moderates.

Rafsanjani's policies of opening up to the West and loosening the economy suffered a blow last week when Tehran voters elected his arch, anti-American radical rival, former interior minister Hojatolislam Ali Akbar Mohtashami, to Parliament.

The suspension of Iran's war with Iraq, added to the gradual rise in world oil prices, has ushered in new hopes of an economic revival in the region. All the GCC states except Oman belong to the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec), and most are also members of Opec.

Prior to the opening of the session, Singh named a leading physicist, Prof MGK Menon, as Minister of Science and Technology, the first scientist to ever hold the post and the 21st member of the National Front cabinet.

Meanwhile, the Congress Party that gave India three generations of leaders was relegated to the role of opposition for only the second time in history.

Sikh militants from the state of Punjab, who won seats for the first time in last month's election, did not take oaths of office with other parliamentarians.

It was not immediately known why the radicals stayed away from the swearing-in ceremony, but militant sources in the Sikh holy city of Amritsar said they want the new government to rescind anti-terrorism laws and withdraw paramilitary forces from Punjab before swearing allegiance to the "final constitution."

Prior to the opening of the session, Singh named a leading physicist, Prof MGK Menon, as Minister of Science and Technology, the first scientist to ever hold the post and the 21st member of the National Front cabinet.

After he was sworn in, Singh told reporters he would continue the dialogue initiated yesterday to find a political solution to the struggle that has claimed more than 7,000 lives in Punjab in the past eight years.

Militants won six of the 13 seats in Punjab, and three independents backed by the militants also were elected. One of the independents, Kirpal Singh, took the oath, but the remaining eight were missing from the House.

The oath does not have to be administered on parliament's first day, but there is no clear precedent on how long the Sikhs could refrain from taking it. They will not be permitted to speak or vote in Parliament unless they take the oath.

In the ceremony, Singh pledged to uphold the constitution, then walked across the floor to shake hands with ex-prime minister Rajiv Gandhi. Rajiv was sworn in after Singh and members of his cabinet took their oaths.

"I know nothing about that," said deputy White House Press Secretary Roman Popaduk.

Rep. Alfonso D'Amato, however, believed the Colombians

would try to kill Bush.

"They are desperate people," the senator said of the drug traffickers.

"They have used these tactics against their own people and they would resort to this kind of effort...."

(Continued on Page 2)

## \$30m to kill Bush

Cartel contract out

NEW YORK, Dec 18, (AP): A published report says Colombian drug lords have taken out a \$30-million contract on the life of President George Bush.

At least one member of Congress believe the threat is real.

Intelligence reports found that the cartels have tried to recruit Mideast terrorists to kill Bush, and tried to hire Colombian guerrillas to hit targets in the United States, according to an unidentified State Department official quoted by Newsweek magazine in its Dec 25 issue.

Some of the reports "have prompted serious investigations," the official said, but none has checked out.

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(Continued on Page 2)

FAIR weather with light to moderate northwesterly wind.  
Sea: 0.5 to 1.5 to 2.5 to 3.5 m.  
High water: 3.00 am, 5.00 pm.  
Low water: 10.00 am, 11.00 pm.  
Sunrise: 6.37 am.  
Sunset: 4.53 pm.  
Maximum temperatures recorded:  
Kuwait: 14°C 64°F  
Ahmadi: 17°C 63°F  
Fulakia: 17°C 63°F  
Minimum temperatures recorded:  
Kuwait: 7°C 45°F  
Ahmadi: 10°C 50°F  
Fulakia: 10°C 50°F  
Maximum humidity recorded:  
Kuwait: 76 per cent  
Ahmadi: 76 per cent  
Fulakia: 77 per cent

BIRMINGHAM, Alabama, Dec 18, (UPI): The letter bomb that killed US circuit judge Robert Vance was similar to one found today in a federal courthouse in Atlanta, authorities say.

Allen Whitaker, special agent in charge of the FBI office in Birmingham, also said authorities had been able to determine a return address for the package that exploded in the kitchen of Vance's home on Saturday, killing the judge and seriously injuring his wife. He would neither confirm nor

deny reports that the return address was that of a federal judge in Atlanta.

"We believe we know the return address of the device that exploded at the Vance residence," Whitaker said. "We have what we believe is a postmark."

Present reporters for the name on the package, Whitaker said. "We will say there is a name and not discuss it further."

The FBI held a news conference in Birmingham

today just after police and military squads in body armour found the new letter bomb in the 11th US circuit court of appeals in Atlanta. Whitaker said bomb experts in Alabama on the Vance case were sent to Atlanta to investigate.

While screening mail in the federal courthouse a second package containing a similar explosive device was found, Whitaker said. "That matter is being approached with a great deal of caution."

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(Continued on Page 2)



HH the Amir of Kuwait is welcomed by Sultan Qaboos of Oman upon his arrival at Muscat. (Reuters wirephoto)

Romanians rise up

## 'Dozens die'

BELGRADE, Dec 18, (Reuters): A Yugoslav witness of an anti-government demonstration in the Romanian town of Timisoara said today he estimated security forces had killed dozens of people.

Radislav Denic, a graduate of Timisoara University who was in the city for a week and returned to Yugoslavia today, said security forces had opened fire on the protesters on Sunday with rifles and from helicopters.

"Hundreds of people were falling on the pavement in front of my eyes," he told reporters.

Denic said he had personally seen three dead bodies, including the corpse of a little child wrapped in white linen and lying on a street in Timisoara.

He said he had seen smoke pouring from the city's police headquarters and believed the demonstrators had attacked the building.

"Cars were overturned in the streets and windows were smashed. People broke into bookstores, took out books written by Ceausescu and burned them," he said.

The riot was the most serious challenge to the hardline communist rule of President Nicolae Ceausescu since a workers' protest in the city of Brasov in November 1987.

Another Yugoslav witness of the riot in Timisoara, who declined to be identified, said security forces dispersed the protesters with automatic rifles and water cannon.

One GCC Arab cabinet minister said efforts to set up an Arab common market were progressing slowly because of the need to protect subsidised industries in certain GCC states.

Other moves to attract back some \$150 billion invested primarily in countries such as the summit.

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## Terror suspect Iranians in UK net

MANCHESTER, England, Dec 18. (AP): Four Iranians, two of them students, are being held by police in Manchester under the Prevention of Terrorism Act, police and university officials said today.

"We can confirm that four males of Iranian nationality are at present detained. Inquiries are continuing," said a police spokeswoman, who by custom was not identified.

The four were detained on Friday but police refused to identify them or release any further details.

The spokesman said the detentions were not in connection with the US State Department's warning last week of a possible terrorist attack on a US target in Western Europe or West Africa.

Patrick Stephenson, registrar at the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology, confirmed that two of the four were engineering students who had completed their course work for doctor of philosophy degrees and were writing their dissertations. He identified them as Karen Abrinia, 32, and Mehrdad Kokabi, 33.

Another of those arrested was 40-year-old Javad Mousavi, a father of four who suffers from multiple sclerosis, said his English-born wife Dawn.

Mrs Mousavi said police came to the family's home in the Rusholme area of Manchester on Friday afternoon and arrested her husband.

"We were kept in the kitchen for two hours while the police searched the house. They took away personal papers like letters and even bank books. They turned everything upside down and took the floorboards up," she said.

"Javad is innocent. I don't know why he is detained. He is not a politically active person — although we both support the Iranian government," Mrs Mousavi said.

Under the Prevention of Terrorism Act, suspects can be held for seven days without being charged.

■ Air travellers faced today long queues at London's Heathrow Airport as security was tightened after a warning about a possible attempt to mark the first anniversary of the Lockerbie air disaster with a fresh attack.

Particular emphasis was being placed on US airlines, where passengers were being questioned and searched as they checked-in, and all baggage was X-rayed before being put in aircraft holds, airport officials said.

Airport authorities urges passengers not to bring sealed presents through the hand baggage searches, and security staff were opening them up if X-ray examinations indicate anything suspicious.

## Muslims split over response to Satanic Verses

LONDON, Dec 18. (AP): Hesham Al Essawy wanted to visit Iran and win a reprieve for author Salman Rushdie. But a Tehran newspaper said "the hanging rope" awaited him, so he stayed in England.

Kalim Siddiqui supports the late Ayatollah Khomeini's call for Muslims to kill Rushdie and thinks the author should be hounded until "The Satanic Verses" is withdrawn from bookshelves.

Muslims say "The Satanic Verses,"

both men are noted Muslim figures in Britain, and both regard Rushdie's book as deeply offensive to their faith. But their differing approaches reflect the divisions among Muslims on how to cope with "The Satanic Verses" and Khomeini's death order.

Rushdie, a Bombay-born Muslim, has been in hiding under police guard since Feb 14. Khomeini died on June 3, but his edict endures.

Muslims say "The Satanic Verses,"

published 14 months ago, insults Islam. Siddiqui, director of the Muslim Institute, says Khomeini's "fatwa" is unchallengeable, and that Rushdie got "nothing less than he thoroughly deserved."

But while favouring the death decree "absolutely," he says it is "not for Muslims living in this country to break British law to bring Rushdie to book."

Al Essawy, chairman of the Islamic Society for the Promotion of Religious

Tolerance, contends that the death call contradicts the Holy Quran's teachings.

"As a Muslim, I should really suppress the human response and adopt the religious response, which is 'don't punish him, leave him to God to punish or forgive him as he wishes,'" Al Essawy said in an interview.

Al Essawy planned a lecture tour of Iran, Egypt and the Gulf states in

February to dispute the edict, but cancelled it when Iran declined to guarantee his safety and its semi-official newspaper, Kehan, warned he would be hanged.

"The death sentence is really a slur, is something that defames the religion of Islam," Al Essawy said.

"As long as the man stays in hiding, we'll stand accused of putting him there and keeping him there. We'll be regarded as potential killers."

Al Essawy hoped to at least remove the \$5.2 million bounty offered by Iranian clerics.

Al Essawy and Siddiqui have never met. Al Essawy's group aims to identify and correct causes of intolerance toward Muslims. Siddiqui's disseminates information on Muslim political thought.

Siddiqui, immigrated from Pakistan in 1954, Al Essawy from Egypt in 1970.



Keeping in check

Indian troops train their guns on a sensitive spot in Srinagar, capital of Jammu and Kashmir state, to control riots. The strategic territory of Kashmir was placed under curfew after the Indian government exchanged

five Kashmiri separatists for the kidnapped daughter of the home minister. (Reuter wirephoto)

### Nine feared dead in storms

## Gales and rain savage Britain

LONDON, Dec 18. (AP): Gales and torrential rain lashed Britain during the weekend, flooding coastal towns and leaving nine feared dead.

The captain of an Irish coastal steamer, the Ardlow Victor, was washed overboard early yesterday in the Bay of Biscay off the coast of France as his ship went down. A French helicopter rescued his five crew.

Later Sunday, waves swept two teen-age boys out to sea. One, 16 years old, was hit by a huge wave near Folkestone on England's south coast, and the other, 14, was swept to his death as he and a group of youths watched the waves from rocks at Castletown on the Isle of Man in the Irish Sea.

Six fishermen aboard a 35-foot (10.5 metre) fishing boat that sank Saturday in Scotland's Firth of Clyde, 250 yards (metres) from Safe

Harbour, were believed lost in heavy seas and driving snow.

Two Royal Navy helicopter crews braved tumultuous seas and 60 mph (95 kph) winds yesterday to lift 21 people to safety from a drifting Spanish cargo ship in the Bay of Biscay.

The 4,000-ton Spanish container ship Julia del Mar sent out a Mayday message after losing its steering gear in the storm.

The southwest coast of England and Wales was battered by the storms all day yesterday and boats stood by to rescue hundreds of people from Lympington, on the south coast, as a high tide approached.

Parts of the town were under five feet (1.5 metres) of water but the high tide passed without further flooding.

In Western Scotland, the fishing boat Destiny

was trying to make a 6-mile (10 kilometre) return journey to Greenock from Holy Loch, the US Navy's Polaris submarine base, when it went down Saturday with all six crew.

Rescue crews spotted an oil slick during the night. Police divers the next morning confirmed it was the Destiny, but conditions were too dangerous for the divers to search the sunken boat for bodies.

Homes were evacuated in Porthleven and Newlyn in Cornwall in southwesternmost England, and there was extensive flooding in east Devon and Dorset in the south.

The lighthouse at St Mary's, on the Isles of Scilly, 25 miles (40 kilometres) southwest of Cornwall, was swept away.

Two thousand homes in north- and west- Devon and Dartmoor were without electricity.

### Indian government grounds Westland helicopters after third crash

NEW DELHI, Dec 18. (UPI): The Civil Aviation Ministry has grounded the problem-plagued state-owned fleet of 18 Westland helicopters following the third crash since 1986 of one of the British-made aircraft, the government and a defence industry source said.

An official spokesman said the Civil Aviation Ministry ordered the grounding pending the completion of an inquiry into whether the aircraft are safe to operate.

The government of Prime Minister V. P.

Singh placed the investigation in the hands of a special committee headed by Dr. S.A. Hussain, the director of the department of defence production in the Defence Ministry, the spokesman said.

The panel will examine all safety and operational aspects of the helicopters, he said.

A defence industry source, speaking to United Press International on condition of anonymity, said a team of technical experts from Britain was expected to arrive in India

this week to assist in the inquiry.

No fatalities were reported in the mishap, the third crash involving one of the aircraft since India purchased 21 in 1986 for operation by the state-owned Pawan Hans Helicopter Corporation. Most of the aircraft have been used for aiding oil drilling operations off India's western coast.

The deal, which included lucrative financial aid to India for the purchase, cost more than \$140 million.

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## Saudia bomb suspect detained

ISLAMABAD, Dec 18. (AP): Police have arrested a suspect in the attempted bombing last month of a Saudi Arabian airlines jet with 339 people aboard, authorities announced today.

Authorities refused to release his name and nationality, but said he was a mechanical engineer from an Arab country who is a known extremist.

"We do not want to give other details yet as the investigation is still under way," said Mohammad Habib Khan, director of Pakistan's Federal Investigation Agency.

The agency said the man admitted guilt after being identified by witnesses.

An FIA press release said he handed a school bag containing a crude time bomb to a Saudi passenger identified as Abu Ammar, who was told it contained stamps and a book to be collected by someone in Jeddah.

"Ammar is in custody in Saudi Arabia, but we expect him to be sent here soon for questioning," Khan said.

Police said the bomb aboard the Boeing 747 failed to explode because a detonator wire apparently jolted loose when the bag was being loaded.

They said it was timed to go off while the plane was over the Arabian Sea on a flight from Islamabad to the Saudi city of Jeddah on Nov 23.

Authorities have not explained how the device escaped detection during the normally intensive screening of baggage at Islamabad airport.

The flight was diverted to Pakistan's southern port city of Karachi after Islamabad airport security officers received a note demanding \$15 million ransom, officials said.

Delivered by a taxi driver, the message said the aircraft would blow up if the money were not delivered in \$50 notes to a location in Islamabad.

Officials said it was not clear why the suspect demanded ransom when the bomb was set to go off automatically.

The bomb was discovered after the jet landed and passengers were ordered to identify their luggage.

Experts said it consisted of only eight ounces (250 grammes) of dynamite, but could have caused damage sufficient to destroy the plane while in the air.

The FIA said the suspect got to know Ammar recently in the Pakistani frontier city of Peshawar, near the border with Afghanistan. They travelled together on a bus from Peshawar to Islamabad a few days before the departure of Saudi flight SV 367, it said.

The agency said authorities recovered a pistol and ammunition from the suspect along with papers which apparently were intended to mislead police in the event of his arrest.

### Solzhenitsyn essay published

THE Soviet Communist Party newspaper Pravda broke new ground yesterday with the publication of a favourable essay on Alexander Solzhenitsyn's epic expose of the Stalinist labour camps, "Gulag."

The essay by former dissident historian Roy Medvedev first appeared in the West in 1974 just one month after the clandestine publication of "Gulag" in Paris.

Former health minister Rabi



## Ray for speaker

MGK Menon gets cabinet post

(Continued from Page 1)

Singh is expected to seek a vote of confidence from Parliament on Thursday, the first parliamentary test for the unlikely coalition his own centrist National Front formed with right-wing Hindu fundamentalists and an array of communists and socialists.

It was the first time the post of Minister of Science and Technology has gone to a scientist. Rajiv a computer enthusiast and former airplane pilot, had retained that portfolio for himself.

Prof Menon is not a member of Parliament, another departure from Indian political tradition, under which cabinet posts are usually given to legislators from the governing party.

Menon, till recently a member of the Planning Commission, was sworn in at a simple ceremony at Raisina Bhawan by President R. Venkataraman.

With the inclusion of the 60-year-old scientist, the strength of the Singh ministry went up to 21, of whom 18 are of cabinet rank.

In the Planning Commission, Menon was looking after scientific research, technology development, ecology and health.

Former health minister Rabi Ray will be the ruling National

Front's candidate for speaker of Lok Sabha. The speaker will be elected tomorrow after the swearing-in of members, which began today, will be completed.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister P. Upendra said all other parties had been consulted on the choice of Ray. The convention in the Lok Sabha is to try and achieve a consensus on the speaker's candidate so that a contest is avoided.

But soon after the announcement, the Congress, the single largest party in the Lok Sabha, reacted sharply saying that it had not been consulted on the choice. A party spokesman said Upendra had only gone up to Congress leader Rajiv Gandhi in the Lok Sabha this morning to inform him about the decision to nominate Ray.

The spokesman said the Congress would not tolerate any attempt to ignore or humiliate it, given its strength of 193 members in the House. Whether this means that the party would contest tomorrow's election was not immediately known though it seemed unlikely.

The deputy speaker will be elected at the next session of the Lok Sabha. Traditionally, the post is offered to an opposition party.

## Bush stiff on Tehran

### Second shooting incident in Panama

(Continued from Page 1)

army officer by soldiers in Panama.

The administration is reviewing several options on possible responses, and the president pointedly did not rule out a military action.

"I think a President, all presidents, have options, but they don't discuss what they might be," Bush said. He repeated the answer when asked if military action was among the options available.

Meanwhile, Panamanian troops apparently exchanged fire with US military personnel today, the second such incident

in 48 hours, the US southern command said.

"We have received reports to the effect that there has been an incident between a member of the US forces and the Panamanian defence forces," spokeswoman Mercedes Morris told Reuters.

Blaming Noriega for the weekend violence, White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater condemned "a climate of aggression" there and said Noriega seems to have granted a "license for harassment" against US citizens.

</div

# Pilots evacuate trapped family

## Caretakers for Tuwalaka lodge near belching Redoubt volcano

ANCHORAGE, Alaska, Dec 18. (AP): Rescuers have evacuated a family that was trapped at a lodge in the shadow of Redoubt volcano as it continued to belch ash and steam over much of south-central Alaska.

The volcano, which had been fuming and sputtering in a continuous low-level eruption since Saturday afternoon, erupted with greater force yesterday, the US geological survey said. An ash plume was spotted by an airline pilot at 27,000 feet (8,230 metres), drifting northeast toward Anchorage.

Shortly before yesterday's eruption, pilots of Alaska Helicopters Inc. evacuated Nancy Jones, her husband and 2-year-old son from Tuwalaka Lodge, 10 miles (16 km) south of the volcano. For two days ash clouds and poor weather had stymied efforts to reach the Joneses, who are caretakers at the lodge.

Mrs Jones said yesterday she and her family could see little of the volcano until Saturday, when fog and snow

near the peak cleared.

"It was a little bit worrisome," she said. "We were worried the top might blow off our way and give us a bad night that way."

Another caretaker couple, Mike and Sandy Coulter, remained at Big River Lake Lodge nearly 30 miles (48 km) north of the volcano, though they had reported hunks of pumice as large as softballs falling on their roof Saturday.

They reported no serious problems and intended to stay, said the lodge's owner, Dennis Brannah.

The 10,197-foot (3,108-metre) volcano, located about 115 miles (185 km) southwest of Anchorage and quiet since the '60s, started erupting Thursday. Ash drifted as far south as Oregon. It had been expected to reach California or Arizona yesterday, but officials said there were no reports of ash reaching those states.

The continent's most notorious volcano, Mount St Helens in Washington State, also showed signs of life on

Thursday after more than three years of silence. The volcano issued a small burst of steam, gas and ash, but scientists said an eruption did not appear to be imminent.

A brief lull in Redoubt volcano enabled some stranded travellers to fly out of Anchorage.

Some holiday travellers had made it out of the airport during a break in ashfall from the volcano, but most were stuck in the city unable to get flights to the lower 48 states.

Airborne ash however, drifted south in high-level winds to Pacific Northwest states, the national weather service said.

Following the blast, the Federal Aviation Administration warned that "ashfall may be heavy" and advised airlines to scrap hastily patched together flight plans.

Even before the latest explosion, the FAA reported an ash cloud 400 miles (640 km) long, from the volcano to the Canadian border, and several hundred miles (km) wide, spokesman Paul Steck said.

Winds sent new ash to the northeast — directly toward Anchorage. Some ash mixed with snowfall.

High-level winds captured lighter ash particles and held them captive for a journey southeast to Canada, into the air above Washington State and across the United States, NWS meteorologist Elliott Barstek said.

Pilots' reports of ash above the Pacific Northwest fit wind patterns that were taking Alaska's airborne ash on a series of curving, long-distance flights over southeast Alaska to British Columbia, on to Washington and then to numerous other states.

For the second straight day yesterday all arrival and departure listings for Delta Air Lines were marked "cancelled," just above Delta's "we love to fly" — and it shows slogan on TV flight monitors at the airport.

"Everyone's trying to get the hell out of here — anywhere" said Rich McManus, Anchorage on business and trying to go home to Sacramento, California.

## Security alert for US judges

MOUNTAIN BROOK, Alabama, Dec 18. (AP): US Federal Judges were placed on security alert and the FBI gave top priority to finding out who mailed a bomb that killed an appeals court judge in his kitchen.

FBI agents also said the search for the assassin of 11th US Circuit Court of Appeals Judge Robert S. Vance was aided by a hospital bed interview yesterday with Vance's wife, Helen.

She was listed today in serious but stable condition from wounds suffered in the explosion.

Vance, 58, who fought for racial moderation and progressive stands in Alabama during 11 years as state chairman of the Democratic Party, was killed instantly Saturday when the package exploded in his home in Birmingham's most exclusive suburb.

He was the third federal judge to be assassinated in 10 years. The three are believed to be the only federal jurists killed in their offices.

Tom Moore, an FBI spokesman, said "specific leads" had been developed, but he declined to elaborate. Authorities said Vance had received no threats to his life before the explosion and hadn't requested protection.

On speculation of a possible connection to drug cases Vance may have handled, Moore said, "it is not being ruled out, but it is no more prominent than several other avenues we are following. We are reviewing his full case."

Vance, appointed to the appeals court in 1977, served in a circuit that reviewed cases from Florida, Georgia and Alabama.

Authorities said the 11th circuit caseload was varied, although most of the cases were drug related.

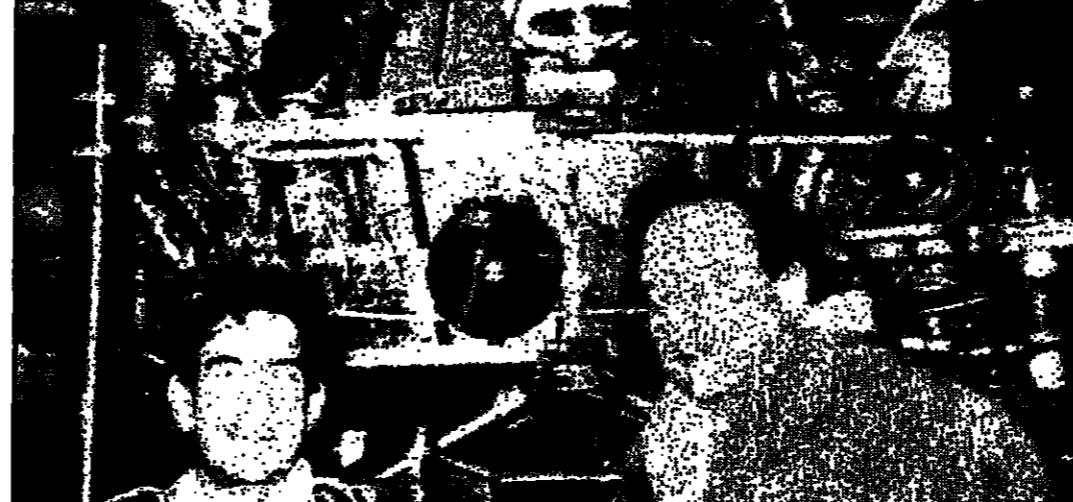
But investigators said the attack might have been unrelated to his work.



Young and Crawley speak with people in front of the Lunar Orbiter. (Reuter wirephoto)



A close-up of the Soviet Lunar Landing Craft, which was never flown, and its orbital section.



Crawley and Young (right) stand in front of the Soviet Lunar Landing Craft. (Reuter wirephoto)

## Finally admitting to moon race

# Soviets reveal lunar spacecraft

BOSTON, Dec 18. (AP): Photos released yesterday of a never-used lunar spacecraft provide firm evidence the Soviet Union raced the United States to put a human on the moon — something many suspected but the Soviets long denied.

Soviet space officials revealed the landing craft and a return Earth module last month to a group of US aerospace professors who toured the Moscow Aviation Institute.

"We are almost positive that we are the first Westerners to have seen this," said Edward F. Crawley of Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The Soviets told the Americans that the spacecraft was ready to fly the year before the US Apollo 11 mission reached the moon in 1969. But the project was abandoned because of difficulty perfecting the rocket booster that would have carried some of the equipment into space.

The Americans saw the Soviet gear on Nov. 27, and MIT released Kerebrukov's photos yesterday. They said the Soviets were nonchalant about showing off the hardware.

"It was offhand," said Jack L. Kerebrukov, MIT's acting dean of engineering, who took the photographs. "They took us into the room that housed this hardware to show it to us as part of their educational programme. Indeed, this is how it's used by students. They crawl around it and make drawings of it."

The Americans said the Soviet equipment resembled the US landing craft except for two major details. The Soviet setup required two rockets rather than one to carry it into space. And it would have carried one person rather than two to the surface of the moon.

"What's newsworthy is they are just now admitting that they were trying to get to the moon. They always denied it," said Lee Saenger, ser, archivist at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration in Washington.

The Soviets first acknowledged the lunar programme in October, when the newspaper Pravda published an interview with Vasily P. Mishin, its chief designer.

The Americans were shown the equipment by their Moscow host, professor Oleg Afanov.

The Americans — five from MIT and one from the California Institute of Technology — were in the Soviet Union to help set up an exchange programme with the Soviet Aerospace Institute.

Crawley said the Soviets showed a "mixture of pride that they had built it and sorrow that they had never used it and concern that on one has ever heard about it."

Americans Neil Armstrong and Edwin Aldrin were the first to set foot on the moon on July 20, 1969. The era ended three years later

when Apollo 17 astronauts made the sixth and final lunar landing.

The Americans said the Soviets told them the lunar lander part of the mission was ready to go in 1968, and they were under pressure because of the Apollo successes. However, setbacks in the development of the Soviet's N1 booster rocket held up the mission.

They said the moon programme was put on hold in 1972 and cancelled in 1974. The Soviets then gave priority to their space station project.

The N1 booster would have carried the lunar landing craft into space, while a proton rocket would have lifted a spacecraft intended to bring the cosmonauts back to Earth.

The Americans said the Soviet landing craft, complete with extendable landing legs, was designed much like the US version.

"There is a lot of similarity due to form and function," said Crawley.

## PEOPLE AND PLACES

### Random

# Drug testing

LANDOVER, Maryland: While the deafening rock 'n' roll band Motley Crue sent 16,000 screaming teenagers into high-decibel heaven, Phil and Kathy Hawkins sat across the hall writing Christmas cards in a quiet paradise reserved for the kids' chauffeurs.

The Hawkiness joined more than 200 other parents recently in the "Quiet Room" at the Capital Centre, a suburban Washington arena that says it pioneered the idea of providing a noise-free sanctuary for parents who drive their children to rock concerts.

Since the Capital Centre opened its Quiet Room in October 1986, similar facilities for parents have spread to arenas in many other major cities.

"We always had people dropping off their kids and then driving home again until the concert was over," said Mark Ladd, a Capital Centre spokesman. "Rather than drive long distances, some parents would sit in their cars and wait for three hours."

When some parents began huddling in the lobby for warmth, Amodeo and his colleagues invited them into the arena's capital club restaurant, where they were offered free snacks and soft drinks, magazines and low-volume TV sets. (AP)

POMPANO BEACH, Florida: Nadia Comaneci plopped down nearly \$20,000 in travellers' cheques on a Camaro convertible and shopped her way through clothing stores this week, sales clerks said.

Escorted by Constantine Panait, the married roofer who has accompanied the Olympic gold-medal gymnast since she fled Romania, Ms Comaneci was staying in a 130-dollar-a-night suite at the best Western beachcomber resort and villas in Pompano Beach.

Thomas Martin, a salesman at Maroone Chevrolet, said he sold Ms Comaneci the Camaro, a black convertible automatic with gray bucket seats.

She originally had her eye on a used Corvette, he said, but Martin steered her towards the convertible.

Dealership manager Ken Pataski said Ms Comaneci whipped out a wad of travellers' cheques to close the deal.

At a department store she got a 30 per cent discount on a \$184 "social dress," a knee-length white jersey decorated with pearls and beads, said Phyllis Paul, a clerk at the store. She also stopped at the cosmetic and shoe counters, she added.

The stay at the hotel and some of the shopping spree and her tab were apparently paid by British tabloids, which sent writers and photographers to accompany Ms Comaneci, hotel employees said. (AP)

DETROIT: A holiday painting by American illustrator Norman Rockwell, originally commissioned for an automobile commercial, drew a record \$264,000 for a work by the popular folk artist at an auction.

The original oil on canvas, "Merry Christmas, Grandma," was bought for our New Plymouth, was bought for a Japanese collector, said Judy Gorman, a top New York dealer in American illustration.

Gorman would not reveal the identity of the Japanese collector, gallery officials said.

"It's the first time a Japanese buyer has purchased anything of an American illustrator for that type of price," said Joseph Dumouchelle, the gallery auctioneer.

The piece was commissioned by the Plymouth division of Chrysler Corp. and originally appeared as an advertisement in the December, 1950 issue of Life magazine.

Dumouchelle said the painting, complete with extendable landing legs, was designed much like the US version.

"There is a lot of similarity due to form and function," said Crawley.

LOS ANGELES: Frank Sinatra's lawyer has warned impersonator Nick Edeleff that his one-man show violates a Sinatra trademark.

"The whole thing is bogus. I've never heard of vocal qualities being trademarks," Edeleff said, adding he will ignore the legal threat and continue his Las Palmas theatre performances.

Sinatra publicist Sussie Reynolds wouldn't comment on the lawsuit.

But in a stunt to advertise the opening of "Nick Edeleff stars as Sinatra," the impersonator's publicist distributed at the theatre a "cease and desist" letter from Sinatra attorney Robert Finkelstein. (AP)

## On the cards

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Colombian President Virgilio Barco arrives in Guayaquil. (Reuter wirephoto)

## Home town mourns Gacha

BOGOTA, Colombia, Dec 18, (AP): Thousands in the hometown that Gonzalo Gacha ran as a fieldstone turned out to mourn the slain drug dealer, though the government has characterised his death as victory for the Colombian people.

The bodies of Rodriguez Gacha and his 17-year-old son Fredy, along with five of their bodyguards, had originally been buried late Saturday at public expense in a common grave in Sincelejo, near where the drug dealers were killed in a shootout with Colombian police forces on Friday.

But Colombian authorities yesterday authorised exhumation of the body of Rodriguez and his son, and relatives took the remains to Pacho, a rural town 40 kilometres (24 miles) from Bogota.

In Pacho, a town of 20,000 where Rodriguez Gacha was born, thousands attended the burial at the local cemetery in a luxurious wooden coffin.

Police remained on alert in the area and no incidents were reported.

Peasants near Rodriguez Gacha's Pacho ranch have told reporters that the cocaine baron gave away thousands of dollars, providing money for medical treatment and for seed and equipment when local farmers there could not get loans from the government's farm bank.

Police acknowledged that Rodriguez Gacha's popularity with peasants had made it difficult to trap him.

President Virgilio Barco, in his first public comment about the police shootout in which Rodriguez Gacha was killed, said yesterday that the death was a victory in the war against the cocaine cartels.

"Our only objective is to meet our responsibility to the country," Barco told reporters in Guayaquil, Ecuador, after arriving for a meeting with other presidents of the Andean Pact.

"It is not my battle," he said. "It is a battle that Colombia has won."

At the Ecuador meeting, Barco and the presidents of Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia and Venezuela were expected to discuss strategy against the common problem of cocaine trafficking.

Security forces tracked Rodriguez Gacha to a farm owned by Pablo Escobar, his confederate in the Medellin cocaine cartel, near the Caribbean port of Covenas, 360 miles (580 kilometres) north of Bogota. Rodriguez Gacha, his son and five bodyguards were killed in the fierce battle that ensued, according to national police force officials.

Police said the raid on Rodriguez' hideout was carried out by more than 1,000 security force members, supported by seven helicopters, and followed weeks of intelligence work.

The government's success in tracking down Rodriguez Gacha drew praise from Colombian newspapers, which a week ago were suggesting that Barco had all but lost his struggle against the traffickers.

In August, after the assassination of presidential candidate Luis Carlos Galan, the government declared war on the traffickers, who responded with a series of threats, killings and bombings.

Colombia yesterday stepped up efforts to capture Medellin cartel chief Pablo Escobar and braced for possible retaliation over Friday's killing of the cartel's number two man.

# Conservatives win regional elections in Galicia

SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA, Spain, Dec 18, (AP): Veteran conservative leader Manuel Fraga set out to form a government in his native Galicia today after his Popular Party won a one-seat parliamentary majority in regional elections.

The list headed by Fraga, 67, a former Franco-era minister who has run unsuccessfully for prime minister of Spain three times, was allotted 38 of the 75 seats in the regions

parliament after winning 41.31 per cent of the vote in the elections held yesterday.

The Popular Party was to take over from a governing coalition headed by socialist Fernando Gonzalez Laxe. The socialists won 32.57 per cent of the vote and were assigned 28 seats, according to official provisional results announced after midnight.

The Galician Nationalist Bloc won 8.13 per cent of the vote and five seats, up from

one seat in 1985. The big loser was the Galician coalition, which went down from 11 seats in 1985 to two seats in the new parliament, winning just 3.80 per cent of the vote.

Regional nationalist parties govern either with majorities or in coalition in other Spanish historic regions like Catalonia and the Basque country, but nationalist parties have never been strong in Galicia and suffered a

further decline yesterday.

Of the 16 regional nationalist parties that ran candidates, only three managed to win a total of 10 seats, down from the 15 seats that went to nationalist parties in the race for a smaller, 71-seat parliament in 1985. Four seats have been added this year to reflect population shifts to urban centres.

Nearly 60 per cent of Galicia's more than 2.2 million registered voters cast ballots.

Braving heavy rains that blew down power and telephone lines and forced officials at some polling places to delay their opening,

The Popular Party's predecessor, the Popular Coalition, won 34 seats in the 1985 elections, while the socialists won 22.

Spain's leading daily *El País* called the victory "a significant personal triumph" for Fraga, who resigned from his party's

national leadership three years ago after a series of humiliating defeats and hinted he would go into retirement.

Fraga was minister of tourism and information and ambassador to Britain during the 1939-75 authoritarian government of Gen. Francisco Franco. He was also minister of government immediately after Franco's death and was elected deputy to the national parliament.

# US, Panama trade insults

Americans accused of provocation

PANAMA CITY, Dec 18, (AP): Military officers from the United States and Panama have met to discuss a weekend confrontation in which a US officer died, opposition politicians said.

US authorities refused to comment on the report of a meeting yesterday to discuss the incident, in which another US officer was wounded and a navy couple

beaten.

The contact was reported to be through the joint board, a liaison between the two countries' military forces that deals with Panama Canal security and defence.

Earlier in a statement, the US southern command, which has headquarters in Panama, said the officer slain Saturday was

"off duty, unarmed and in civilian clothes when he and three others were stopped by Panamanian soldiers near the (Panamanian) defence headquarters in the old section of Panama City."

The Panamanians tried to drag the Americans out of their car and fired at them as they drove off, killing one officer, it said. His identity was withheld, pending notification of relatives.

The Panamanian defence forces accused the US officers of a provocation, without mentioning the American's death or acknowledging the arrest of the navy officer.

It said the American soldiers broke through the checkpoints and fired at the headquarters, wounding a soldier and two civilians, including a 1-year-old girl.

The Pentagon said a US Navy lieutenant and his wife were stopped at the same roadblock as the other soldiers a half-hour earlier and witnessed the shooting. The Panamanians then blindfolded both with masking tape and interrogated and beat them for about four hours.

The Pentagon said the man was kicked in the groin and head and the woman slammed against the wall so hard that her head was cut before they were released.

Panamanian troopers yesterday blocked streets leading to Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega's with trucks and buses, while US soldiers guarded their bases.

US Defence Secretary Dick Cheney said in his statement, "the lack of discipline and control in the Panamanian defence forces is further evidence that Panama is a country without a government."

The 12,000 US troops

stationed in the Panama Canal area were restricted to base Sunday and only authorised movement was permitted.

The White House has deplored the killing of a US officer in Panama and termed it a "consequence" of the country's being under the rule of strongman Noriega.

White House deputy spokesman Roman Popaduk said President George Bush was informed of the situation in Panama by National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft and was being kept apprised.

"We deplore this act of violence. We are presently looking into the circumstances of this incident," said Popaduk.

He added: "The Noriega regime is isolated both domestically and internationally and has been using force and intimidation to thwart the will of the Panamanian people. Acts such as those of last evening are the consequence of such a regime."

The surrender came after police

granted a demand and summoned Roman Catholic Cardinal Paucho Evaristo Arns, Sao Paulo's archbishop, to the scene and joined the negotiations. The archbishop was accompanied by diplomatic representatives of the countries of Canada, Argentina and Chile.

Five other members of the ring

were picked up earlier in the week following Diniz's abduction Monday morning. Police said the gang comprised two Argentines, five Chileans, one Brazilian and two Canadians.

The five suspects arrested yesterday filed into a police bus after surrendering a submachine gun and pistols and submitting to body

searches.

Diniz, 52, appeared haggard but happy in a yellow-brown polo

shirt as he followed his abductors from the building. A supermarket magnate and chairman of the Brazilian multinational conglomerate Pao de Acucar, Diniz's fortune is estimated at \$2 billion.

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and pistols and submitting to body

searches.

Diniz was brought to a window

of the building Sunday morning

where journalists could see that he, too, was alive.

Police and Diniz's family kept

his kidnapping secret for five days,

but by Saturday detectives had

tracked the assailants to the house

in the Jabaquara neighbourhood

of Sao Paulo, 270 miles (434 km)

southwest of Rio de Janeiro.

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# Gringo calls for major reforms in Philippines

Ramos refuses to resign: Aquino to reshuffle cabinet

MANILA, Dec 18, (Agencies): Army rebels today called for a new military-backed government and far-reaching reforms in the Philippines, saying the country was "so sick that it needs major surgery." Meanwhile, the defence secretary refused to step down as demanded by the opposition.

In a 24-point set of demands for President Corazon Aquino, rebel leader Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan called for an end to the Roman Catholic church's intervention in politics, reform of the justice system and an amnesty for political offenders.

In a statement published today by the opposition newspaper News-

day, the cashiered army colonel urged Aquino to either form a coalition government to implement radical reforms or step down in favour of a new governing council "under the protection of the soldiers of the people."

"Our country is so sick that it needs major surgery before its ailment becomes incurable," the manifesto declared.

"Our country is so sick that it needs major surgery before its ailment becomes incurable," the manifesto declared.

Aquino yesterday ordered the immediate trial of leaders of the Dec 1-7 military coup attempt, branding them traitors paid "30 pieces of silver" to bring her down.

In a national radio broadcast, she said the rebel leaders would be shown no mercy.

She urged civilians to come forward with information that could help prosecute leaders of the revolt in which more than 100 people were killed and 600 wounded.

Armed forces spokesman Oscar Florendo said several of the top leaders, including Honasan, were still at large but added the military leadership favoured tough penalties for those who headed the putsch.

In his statement, Honasan described the next period as phase two of the coup, and said they would organise 2.5 million people in a national day of protest to help end what the rebels refer to as "a reign of hatred, greed, lust and terror." He did not say when.

Honasan, a leader of the Reform the Armed Forces Movement (RAM) which helped overthrow former dictator Ferdinand Marcos, says Aquino's government favours the rich, tolerates corruption and has failed to provide leadership.

The manifesto demanded that the remains of Marcos, who died in exile in Hawaii last September, should be allowed back for burial in the Philippines.

The demand adds weight to reports of a tactical alliance between RAM officers and former Marcos supporters to help stage the coup attempt.

Armed forces commander General Renato de Villa said on Saturday that Honasan had formed an alliance to mount the coup with Brigadier-General Jose Maria Zunel, a Marcos-loyalist and former head of the Philippine Military Academy.

Honasan called for price controls, fair wages for workers, and an end to what he called "the materialistic and satanic political intervention of the prince of the church with a cardinal sin in his name."

This was a reference to the influential archbishop of Manila, Cardinal Jaime Sin, a strong supporter of Aquino, who said on Friday that Honasan and other coup leaders must be "hunted down and punished."

Political commentator and former Marcos labour minister Blas Ople said in a newspaper column today that the rebels had apparently intended to establish a military government after the coup, with a civilian advisory council.

It would later transfer power to a broad-based civilian-military government which would prepare for national elections within six months or a year.

Defence Secretary Fidel Ramos today dismissed an opposition call for his resignation.

The Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft stipulates that the country in which a hijacked plane lands can try the suspect under its own laws or can hand him over to the country in which the airplane is registered. Japan and China are among 138 signatories of the convention.

Despite the possibility that Zhang may seek political asylum abroad, the Japanese government decided to hand him over to China because of the importance of retaining friendship with China, deputy cabinet secretary Nobuo Ishihara told reporters earlier.

The Air China plane, carrying 223 people, was flying from Beijing to New York with stops scheduled at Shanghai and San Francisco. It was hijacked shortly after it left Beijing, and, after the pilot failed to receive permission to land in Seoul, South Korea, landed at Japan's Fukuoka airport.

The aircraft returned to China early Sunday morning with 208 people on board, including Zhang's wife and 13-year-old son.

The other 14 passengers, excluding Zhang, remained in Japan to continue on to the United States on other flights, news reports said.

Zhang told investigators earlier that he wanted to flee China following the June military crackdown on the pro-democracy movement, in which he said he took part.

The pair, Wu'er Kaixi and Wan Runman, are on a one-week visit to establish an Australian branch of the Front for Democratic China.



South Korean riot police arrest an anti-government demonstrator outside a Seoul court. (Reuter wirephoto)



Im Su-Kyong (centre) is escorted by two prison guards to a Seoul court. (Reuter wirephoto)

## Hun Sen must go, Sihanouk demands

Australian meets Prince

BEIJING, Dec 18, (AP): Cambodian opposition leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk told an Australian envoy today that his resistance coalition will vacate its UN seat only if the Vietnamese-installed government in Cambodia is dismantled.

Michael Costello, Australia's deputy secretary of Foreign Affairs, briefed Sihanouk and Chinese leaders separately on Australia's suggestion that the United Nations set up an interim administration in Cambodia so free elections can be held.

Sihanouk has said free elections are not possible under the Vietnamese-installed government of Hun Sen. Hun Sen has demanded that the resistance coalition vacate Cambodia's seat in the United Nations, to ensure impartiality while it acts as trustee.

Costello's meeting at Sihanouk's residence in Beijing was closed, but the prince later issued a 27-page open letter to Costello, condemning Hun Sen's government and specifying his terms for

any UN trusteeship.

"I don't accept declaring Cambodia's seat vacant before the simultaneous dismantling of the (resistance) and Hun Sen's 'state of Cambodia,' and the replacement of the illegal, pro-Vietnamese administration of Hun Sen with a purely UN administration in all villages and provinces," the letter said.

Vietnam invaded neighbouring Cambodia in late 1978 and ousted the ruling Khmer Rouge, who had imposed a reign of terror, and put Hun Sen in power. The United Nations and many governments, including that of the United States, recognise Sihanouk's three-party resistance coalition, which includes the Khmer Rouge, as the rightful Cambodian government.

Hun Sen has announced elections, but has rejected Sihanouk's demand that he first dismantle his government and set up an interim government representing all Cambodian parties, including the Khmer Rouge.

He was led by notorious Frenchman Bob Denard, who was seen arguing with Abdallah before the shooting. Denard claims he was in the room when the president was shot accidentally by a

bodyguard.

Denard faces a jail sentence in France for leading a failed coup in the West African nation of Benin in 1977. He also faces arrest in a suit brought by relatives of mercenaries killed in the unsuccessful coup bid.

The Frenchmen led two other coups in the 1970s that first ousted and then returned Abdallah to power in the former French colony.

The police spokeswoman in Paris said



Learning 'socialist values'

Beijing University students, wearing army uniforms, stand at attention during military training. After the crushing of the student-led pro-democracy movement in June, the government required all university

students to undergo compulsory military training to re-learn 'socialist values.' (Reuter wirephoto)

## Seoul arrests radical leader

SEOUL, Dec 18, (AP): The leader of South Korea's radical student movement, a fugitive on the most-wanted list, was arrested today when he showed up at a university campus for a television interview, police said.

Im Chong-Suk, 23, and five student bodyguards were overpowered by about 20 plain clothes police at Seoul's Kyonghee University while he was waiting for a Korean broadcasting television crew, police said.

Im has been on the police wanted list since last March, with a reward of \$7,400 offered for information leading to his arrest. He is head of the outlawed radical National Council of Student Representatives, or Chondachyop.

Police said Im and other radical leaders instigated social unrest and violence and expressed views sympathetic with communist North Korea, a hostile nation since the division of the peninsula in 1945.

Police said Im would be charged with violations of the national security law. Im told reporters at police headquarters he had been detained in the television interview, which was not held.

Meanwhile, riot police ringed the Seoul District Criminal Court today where another radical student and member of the same group was on trial for violating national security laws by making an unauthorised visit to North Korea.

About 100 radical students shouting "Free the flower of unification" and "abolish national security laws" were blocked by police from entering the courthouse where Im Su-Kyong, a 20-year-old student, was in the fourth day of her trial. The students were later detained by the police. They were dragged away after defying an order to disperse.

Miss Im, no relation to the student leader, arrived with her hands handcuffed and tied with rope, under tight security. Previous trial days have been disrupted by students yelling anti-government slogans and throwing paper flowers and paper airplanes in the courtroom.

Miss Im is charged with illegally travelling to North Korea's capital of Pyongyang as a representative of the radical student movement to attend a July 1-8 youth festival. She returned to South Korea Aug 15 through the demilitarised zone which separates the two Koreas.

A US-educated Roman Catholic priest, Rev. Moon Gyu-Hyun, is on trial with her, charged with going to the North to accompany her home. Moon said he went because Miss Im was a Catholic in need of support.

If convicted, Miss Im and Moon could receive up to 10 years in prison.

The Seoul government bans unauthorised trips to North Korea and maintains that dialogue on unification must be conducted through official channels, not by private citizens.

Radical students demand the overthrow of President Roh Tae-Woo and the withdrawal of 43,000 US troops stationed in South Korea.

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French police release mercenaries, arriving from Comoros, after interrogation

PARIS, Dec 18, (AP): Police detained nine European mercenaries from the presidential guard of the Comoros Islands for several hours yesterday after they arrived at Orly airport, a spokeswoman said.

Investigators interrogated the nine, eight Frenchmen and a Belgian, to determine whether they were wanted for any crime, a spokeswoman for the air and border police said.

All were released later, she said.

The Belgian, Joseph Wallendorff, immediately was put on a plane to Brus-

sels, she said. She did not identify the French mercenaries.

Most Comoros believe the 45 mercenaries who officered the Indian Ocean islands' presidential guard either assassinated or ordered the shooting of president Ahmed Abdallah Abderrahman on Nov 26.

They were led by notorious Frenchman Bob Denard, who was seen arguing with Abdallah before the shooting.

Denard claims he was in the room when the president was shot accidentally by a

bodyguard.

Denard faces a jail sentence in France

for leading a failed coup in the West African nation of Benin in 1977. He also faces arrest in a suit brought by relatives of mercenaries killed in the unsuccessful coup bid.

The Frenchmen led two other coups in the 1970s that first ousted and then returned Abdallah to power in the former French colony.

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The Frenchmen led two other coups in the 1970s that first ousted and then returned Abdallah to power in the former French colony.

The police spokeswoman in Paris said

six of the mercenaries arrived on a South African Airways flight from Johannesburg. The other three arrived later on a flight from Lisbon, Portugal.

South African government sources reported Saturday that 18 mercenaries had left Johannesburg for an unspecified destination.

The 650-member presidential guard seized control of the islands after Abdallah's assassination and disbanded the regular army.

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## Pan Am bombing trials in US likely

LONDON, Dec 18. (AP): Scotland's attorney-general says criminal trials arising from the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 that killed 270 people probably will take place in the United States, an Edinburgh weekly reported yesterday.

"In this matter, on terrorists, I think there can be little doubt that the Americans could assert a jurisdiction," the Lord Advocate of Scotland, Lord Fraser, was quoted as telling the newspaper Scotland.

But a spokesman for Lord Fraser "firmly refuted" a London newspaper report that police have gathered enough evidence to charge several suspects in the bombing of the jumbo jet on Dec 21, 1988.

The Sunday Times of London said that despite cautious public statements, Scottish investigators told a secret, five-nation summit of security services that "charges are now possible against certain persons."

It said Scottish police investigators told the summit in Meckenheim, West Germany, that some suspects might have to be tried abroad because of extrdition obstacles.

The newspaper did not say when the summit took place, but said it was attended by leaders of security services in Britain, West Germany, the United States, Sweden and Malta.

It did not identify the source of its information.

New York-bound Flight 103 originated in Frankfurt, West Germany, changed planes in London, and was blown up over Lockerbie, Scotland. All 259 people aboard and 11 people on the ground were killed.

Lord Fraser on Friday announced the first public inquiry into the bombing, but said criminal proceedings were not imminent.

The Sunday Times said police likely are waiting until their inquiries are completed in three or four months before starting criminal proceedings.

It reported police "have for some time suspected who the killers are, but the painstaking assembly of evidence has been a long task."

Fraser identified Ahmed Jibril's radical Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command as among groups under investigation.

The Sunday Times said Scottish police are expected to interview Mohammad Abu Talib, a member of the radical Palestinian Popular Struggle Front who is in a Swedish prison awaiting the verdict of a trial for bomb attacks against Israeli and American targets in northern Europe.

## Cop shot dead in Spain

BARCELONA, Spain, Dec 18. (AP): Two suspected members of an obscure terrorist group shot and killed a policeman as he left for work in this northeastern city, then sped away on a motorcycle, police said.

Police said officer Juan Jose Sucina Ibanez was killed as he prepared to drive from home in the working-class neighbourhood of El Prat de Llobregat when a man and a woman smashed the window of his van and opened fire.

He was hit several times and died almost instantly, they said.

No group claimed responsibility for the attack, but police said the shooting was similar to others committed in the past week by the tiny, extreme-left terrorist group Grapo.

Two army officers were seriously wounded in Madrid Dec 13 and in Valencia two days later after gunmen opened fire as they walked to their cars in the two cities.

Grapo, a Spanish acronym for the October First Revolutionary Anti-Fascist Group, first became known and took its name from the date in 1975 when four Madrid police officers were murdered, an action it later claimed.

## Two Malaysian generals killed in air crash: passengers rescued as ship sinks

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 18. (Agencies): Two Malaysian Army generals were among 16 people killed when an air force helicopter crashed in bad weather on the island of Borneo today, the official Bernama news agency said.

The US-made Nuri helicopter crashed in the Lundu district of Sarawak state, east Malaysia, shortly after take-off from the state capital, Kuching, the agency quoted army officials as saying.



Gorbachev signs a book of condolence at the Academy of Sciences. (Reuter wirephotos)



Boris Yeltsin pays his respects to Sakharov.



Yelena Bonner lays a carnation by the side of Sakharov as his body lies in state at Moscow's Palace of Youth.

## Sakharov funeral turns to political rally

MOSCOW, Dec 18. (Reuter): Eighty thousand Muscovites, hemmed in by hundreds of troops packed a sports park today for the public funeral of Andrei Sakharov, which soon turned into a rally for the political opposition.

A succession of speakers, from fellow scientists and parliamentarians to friends and former dissidents, paid tribute to the late physicist for his relentless struggle for the cause of human rights and democratic freedom.

"He was a real prophet in the ancient sense of the word, a man who did everything

for the sake of a better future," said academic Dmitry Likhachev.

"And like all prophets, he was misunderstood and expelled from his own town," he added, referring to Sakharov's internal exile to the closed city of Gorky between 1980 and 1986, imposed by the late Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev.

At least 10,000 mourners had accompanied the coffin of Sakharov, who died on Thursday aged 68, from a lying-in-state at the Academy of Sciences to the Luzhniki sports complex.

There, a huge crowd, holding aloft black-ribboned portraits of Sakharov, national

flags of the Soviet republics, banners, placards and lighted candles, waited for three hours in ice, sleet and snow for the ceremony to begin.

Several carried signs or wore badges depicting the figure "8" crossed out, calling for the removal from the constitution of article 19 which guarantees the leading role of the Communist Party in Soviet society.

"You will always remain a living example to us," proclaimed one slogan. "Forgive us, Andrei Dmitrievich, we should have come out onto the square in 1980," said another.

When a grey bus arrived carrying the coffin and close family and friends, speakers

tried for several minutes to persuade the crowds to move back to clear a space in front of the podium.

But lines of brown-uniformed Interior Ministry troops, arms linked and tucked into each other's belts, prevented people from moving, only giving way after an appeal from radical historian Yuri Afanasyev.

The red-draped coffin was placed on a raised plinth, with Sakharov's portrait at its head. Hundreds of wreaths and bunches of red carnations were passed over the heads and shoulders of the crowd to be laid at the foot of the column.

In his address, Afanasyev said Sakharov embodied the opposition to the "one-party system, the state economic monopoly, and popular culture socialism and state imperialism which we have now."

Former dissident press chief Yakunin also praised Sakharov as a "prophet to his cause, who had stood firm until death."

"He brought us the freedom which has allowed our slave brothers to raise the iron curtain over our countries," he said, referring to the recent tumultuous changes in Eastern Europe.

"Andrei Dmitrievich started what seemed to be a hopeless cause—the struggle

against totalitarianism—but which is now victorious."

Sakharov's widow, Yelena Bonner, appealed to the crowd to respect the family's wishes for a private burial and not to follow the coffin to the small Vostryakovskoye cemetery on the outskirts of Moscow.

Earlier in the day, Bonner was offered personal condolences by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, who went with Politburo colleagues to pay his last respects to Sakharov at the Academy of Sciences.

"We shall all feel his absence, but perhaps he will go on," Gorbachev told reporters outside the building.

### NEWS IN BRIEF



#### Airline security improved:

US Transportation Secretary Samuel Skinner said yesterday airline security has substantially improved over a year ago when a bomb blew apart a Pan Am flight and he reassured travellers they should not fear terrorist attacks.

"Nothing we have seen indicates people shouldn't fly," he said on television. But he did warn passengers to be wary and to be careful where they pack their baggage.

The State Department last week issued a general warning against possible terrorist attacks against European and American targets after reports were received of movement of Middle Eastern terrorist suspects in Western Europe.

On Dec 21, 1988, the bombing of Pan Am flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, killed all 259 people aboard and 11 on the ground. An extensive investigation has not found enough evidence to bring charges against anyone for involvement in the explosion.

New tribunal for complaints: From Monday members of the public and organisations will be able to complain to a new tribunal about "anything they believe that the British security services have done to them or their property" it was reported.

These words appear in more than 100,000 glossy leaflets distributed by the British Home Office at police stations, libraries, and other outlets, the British media said.

The tribunal is an attempt to give the domestic British secret service (M15) a "new image," and marks the implementation of the security service act.

It puts M15 on a statutory footing for the first time in its 80-year history.

The Guardian newspaper said that it was prompted by public concern about what M15 was up to, and in particular by a decision of the European Commission of Human Rights that M15 had a case to answer in two complaints brought by the UK National Council for Civil Liberties (Kuila).

UK women feel discrimination: The majority of British women still feel discriminated against despite the so-called "sexual revolution," it was reported yesterday.

They have "over-achieved" to be as successful as men at work, but still do most of the household chores, according to a new survey.

The findings show women still have difficulty in challenging the traditional female role, the British media said.

Although a career is considered just as important as the home, most women feel their jobs take second place to their husbands', and for the majority the main aim is to have a family.

The survey did show some changes in attitudes, only half the women questioned said they would stop work to have a baby, and only a quarter would give up work if their husbands earned enough for them to do so. (Kuila)

Pope urges to protect spiritual values:

Pope John Paul urged Maltese President Vincent Tabone yesterday to give legal protection to spiritual and moral values in the staunchly Roman Catholic island, once at loggerheads with the Vatican over education.

"Today the Catholic faith ... continues to inspire and foster in Malta's people a commitment to spiritual and moral values," the Pope said in a speech to Tabone as the President made a 25-minute official visit to the Vatican.

"It is essential that these fundamental human and social values should be safeguarded and furthered through appropriate laws and decisions," added the Pope, who in May will make the first visit by a pontiff to Malta. (Reuters)

Somali rebels hold Italian ship: Northern rebels yesterday were holding an Italian ship and its 18-man crew more than a week after seizing the vessel they claimed was delivering fuel to Somali government troops.

A rebel Somali national movement source in Djibouti said the craft and its crew of two Italians and 13 Somalis had been seized without a fight off Somalia's northern coast carrying fuel from Djibouti. Djibouti is a small former French territory just north of Somalia.

The source said the Italian construction company, the Astaldi Consortium, had leased the ship to the Somali government to transport fuel and supplies to government troops battling the rebels. The company denied that. (AP)

S. Africa police halt march on prison:

Police set up a roadblock Sunday evening to keep 1,000 activists, including Winnie Mandela, from staging a candlelight vigil outside the prison where the social movement leader Nelson Mandela is held.

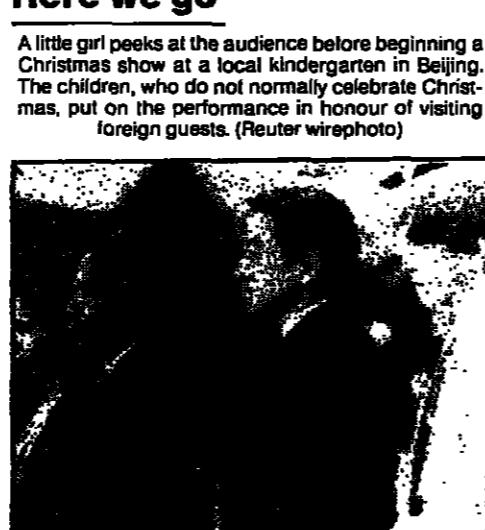
The demonstrators, travelling in 10 buses and about 50 cars, were stopped by police about a kilometre (half-mile) from Victor Verster prison.

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Major-General Mustaffa Awang and Brigadier-General Hasbullah, both regional commanders of the Malaysian armed forces in east Malaysia, were among 16 army personnel being flown to a military exercise near the border with the Indonesian state of Kalimantan.

The aircraft lost contact with ground control 14 minutes after take-off.

An air force Nuri helicopter crashed on November 9 in Peninsular Malaysia, killing all 21 people on board.



Here we go

A little girl peeked at the audience before beginning a Christmas show at a local kindergarten in Beijing. The children, who do not normally celebrate Christmas, put on the performance in honour of visiting foreign guests. (Reuter wirephoto)

#### Mwinyi visits

Tanzanian President Ali Hassan Mwinyi and his wife Siti (left) and Japan's Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko stand at attention while their respective national anthems are played during welcoming ceremonies at the Akasaka state guest house. The Tanzanian President is in Tokyo on an official five-day visit. (Reuter wirephoto)

#### Soviet Congress meets:

The second Congress of People's Deputies of the USSR resumed its meetings yesterday.

The meeting is to stress on the discussion of a bill submitted on Saturday by first deputy president of the Supreme Soviet, Anatoly Lukyanov concerning the elections of republican and local organs of power, as well as the cancelling of the amendment of the social organisations right to a limited number of seats in Congress without being elected.

The People's Congress had finished discussing the government's new plan to improve the economic situation in the Soviet Union and referred it to the specialised parliamentary committee to draft these recommendations.

Soviet Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzkov called the People's Congress to support the government's plan and said that he would take full responsibility if the plan failed in restoring the economic situation. (Kuila)

S. Africa police halt march on prison:

Police set up a roadblock Sunday evening to keep 1,000 activists, including Winnie Mandela, from staging a candlelight vigil outside the prison where the social movement leader Nelson Mandela is held.

He said a passing cargo ship, the MV Sen Lee Hua, picked up the crew and others on board.

The soldiers were taking the explosives to Sebukut when the ship sank. Bernama said.

## 160,000 stage warning strike

BELGRADE, Dec 18, (AP): Some 160,000 workers in the republic of Montenegro staged a half-hour "warning" strike today aimed at pressuring the government to adopt urgent measures designed to reduce inflation.

The strike came hours before a federal Parliament session during which Premier Ante Markovic was to unveil a sweeping market-oriented reform programme to combat inflation, which is currently hovering around 2,000 per cent.

The government has said it will resign if the reform package is rejected by Parliament.

The state Tassing news agency said the strike in Montenegro, an underdeveloped republic, was "the last warning to the government." It was staged because government policy has "brought a large part of Montenegro's population to the edge of famine and social misery," the news agency reported.

Stellar strikes are expected to take place in Serbia, the largest republic, on Wednesday and in the economically poorest region of Macedonia on Thursday.

Montenegro's state-run trade union reportedly issued a proclamation that said a "much longer" strike would take place if Markovic failed to introduce measures to raise living standards.

Markovic's government, which took over last March, has moved fast to introduce economic and social reforms in the face of Yugoslavia's worst-ever economic crisis.

His reform programme is expected to include a substantial devaluation of the national currency, the dinar, and tight monetary and budgetary controls accompanied by staff wage and price discipline. But government spokesmen have denied rumours of a wage and price freeze.

The reforms reportedly would include the sacking of hundreds of thousands of employees in state enterprises that fail to make money in an attempt to stabilise the economy.

Fearing popular discontent, authorities in Serbia and Montenegro prefer short-term measures, such as price freezes. Such price freezes have previously succeeded in holding down consumer costs, but when the restrictions were lifted, inflation soared to record levels.

## Warsaw Pact loses cohesion

### Moscow control declining

LONDON, Dec 18, (UPI): Changes in the commands of the armies of the Warsaw Pact and the ouster of officers with close ties to Moscow have lessened Soviet control over the alliance, a British think-tank said yesterday.

The removal of East German political leader Erich Honecker on Oct 18 was followed by the dismissal of the Minister of National Defence, Col Gen. Heinz Kessler, the last of the senior commanders to fight alongside the Soviet army in World War II, said Jane's Defence, a respected military affairs research center.

The report also said that the events of 1989 highlighted the trend since the mid 1980's of the passing of the generation of Second World War military leaders who had close links with the Soviet Union, often fighting in the Red Army or working with them in the underground resistance movements against the Nazi occupation.

These personal ties of the East European military elite helped the Soviets maintain the cohesion of the Warsaw Pact since it was founded in 1955, the report said.

But their retirements and forced ousters have led to the rise of Warsaw Pact officers without those strong personal ties to their Soviet counterparts. As a result Soviet control has been lessened and the cohesion of the pact diminished.

The reported cited as an example two former East German military leaders with close personal ties to Red Army, Heinz Hoffmann fled Nazi persecution, spent the late 1930's and the war years in Moscow. He was a veteran of the Spanish civil war and graduated from a Soviet military academy. Hoffmann died in 1985 and was replaced by Kessler, described as a Wermacht deser

# Soviets forced ML on Poland

VIENNA, Dec 18. (UPI): President Gen. Wojciech Jaruzelski said today that martial law was declared in 1981 under pressure from the Kremlin and troops from other East bloc nations were poised to help enforce the emergency measures.

Jaruzelski, who had previously declined to discuss the action against the Solidarity trade union movement, made his comments in an interview for the Solidarity newspaper *Gazeta Wyborcza* five days after the Solidarity government observed the eighth anniversary of the imposition of martial law.

The rise of Solidarity under Lech Walesa in 1980 presented a direct challenge to the communist government. Martial law was declared on Dec 13, 1981, and Walesa and other union leaders were arrested and jailed for up to two years. Solidarity was banned on Oct 8, 1982, and martial law was abolished in 1983.

## Dramatic

Now Solidarity runs the government following historic elections in June, although communists still hold some key positions.

Jaruzelski, said imposing martial law eight years ago "was the most dramatic decision of my life" and he acknowledged mistakes were made.

Police and army forces detained more than 6,000 Solidarity activists on the night of the crackdown was implemented, and Jaruzelski said "the internment should not have been made on such a mass scale."

The general also revealed the East German Army was ready to help suppress Solidarity, and manoeuvres by all Warsaw Pact armies were planned on Polish soil.

## Protest

"I was against the participation of East German troops knowing what the reaction of Poles would have been," he said, referring to Polish anger towards the Germans during and after World War II, in which millions of Poles died.

Jaruzelski said the former Soviet ambassador to Warsaw frequently visited him in October 1981 and filed a sharp protest against the growing prominence of Solidarity.

He said other East bloc countries also demanded tough measures against Solidarity, but former Hungarian leader Janos Kadar took a lenient position.

During talks between the Polish leadership and former Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev in Moscow, Jaruzelski said the developments in Poland had been described as a danger for the whole "socialist commonwealth."

"Nyet, nyet, nyet," he reported Brezhnev as saying about the Polish reforms.

## Objective

Jaruzelski said it was possible the Soviets would intervene in Poland as they did in 1968 against Czechoslovakia, where the "Prague Spring" reform movement was brutally crushed by Warsaw Pact tanks and troops.

"I am trying to be objective towards me and others but I cannot say that martial law was a mistake," he said. "It was a lesser evil than that which threatened us."

During the interview, Jaruzelski also revealed, "we have (martial law plans) now."

The reference to current martial law plans was taken by observers as a signal to the new Solidarity government that as the communist president he could intervene if political and social developments get out of hand.

## Satisfaction

The revolution sweeping Eastern Europe in recent weeks has been greeted happily by Poles, who have had the satisfaction of seeing their hardline neighbours finally following in their footsteps.

In a few tumultuous weeks, East Germany, Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria have all seen the birth of mass civic opposition movements demanding pluralism, abandonment of the leading role of the Communist Party and free elections.

## South African court releases former policeman linked to death squad

JOHANNESBURG, Dec 18. (Agencies): A South African court today ordered the release of a white former policeman who was suspected of being connected with a death squad that allegedly murdered anti-apartheid activists.

The Johannesburg Supreme Court ordered that detective sergeant Calla Botha be freed from detention after his father applied for his release.

The judge ruled there was not enough evidence linking Botha to any organisation involved in assassinating anti-government activists.

"There has been some information exposed on

# Romania closes its border after clashes

## Ceausescu arrives in Tehran

VIENNA, Dec 18. (UPI): Romania sealed its border with Yugoslavia to all but official traffic today after a weekend anti-government demonstration in the west Romanian city of Timisoara that turned violent, reportedly causing some deaths.

A Yugoslav traveller said today he saw at least two people, including a child, who had been killed in the rioting.

The source, who spoke on condition he not be identified, told the Associated Press in Yugoslavia that other travellers reported seeing more dead in the city after security forces intervened to break up the

largest anti-government protests in two years.

In West Germany, Radio Bremen quoted William Totok, an ethnic German author who emigrated from Romania to West Germany, as saying that witnesses told him that scores of people, and perhaps hundreds, were killed.

Several hundred people were said to have been injured, Radio Bremen reported.

The was no independent confirmation of any reports of deaths. Several sources reported yesterday and today they heard gunfire in the

streets of Timisoara.

"Police and troops moved in quickly," the Yugoslav source said today after travelling from Romania. He said police, but not troops, were seen firing at the demonstrators.

"I saw two dead, including a child, on the streets," the source said.

Hungarian border officials reported that entry to Romania by Hungarian visitors was severely curtailed today as reports filtered in of a second weekend anti-government demonstration in the Transylvanian city of Arad.

President Nicolae Ceausescu arrived in Tehran today on a three-day official visit.

Tehran radio, said Ceausescu was given a red-carpet welcome by his Iranian counterpart Hashemi Rafsanjani.

The Romanian state news agency Agerpres, making no mention of any unrest in his country, had earlier reported Ceausescu's departure from Bucharest airport.

## Stayed behind

His wife Elena, the second most powerful person in the country, stayed behind although she usually accompanies her husband on trips abroad.

Ceausescu will finalise agreements reached by the Tehran-Bucharest commission that met in Iran last week.

"The Iran-Romania summit is an expression of the positive course of relations between our countries and people," Ceausescu told a Tehran-based English-language daily, the Tehran Times.

Officials at Israel's national El Al Airlines reported that Romania announced today that it closed its borders to all foreign tourists.

The officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Israeli tourists will not be allowed to board an El Al plane due to leave for Bucharest at 10:30 pm today following instructions from Bucharest.

The communists were stripped of their constitutional mandate to rule during a parliamentary session Dec 1. It reduced their status to that of any other political force, though the premier and much of his cabinet are communists.

When a new Parliament is seated after elections, it in turn will name a new government.

Leaders of East Germany's reform movement summoned citizens to a silent vigil today in honour of victims of Stalinist terror but urged them to stay calm rather than risk a fresh display of right-wing nationalism.

The Communist Party daily in Leipzig printed a joint appeal from Kurt Masur, conductor of the city's famed Gewandhaus orchestra, and Protestant church superintendent Friedrich Magirius to join the regular weekly demonstration.

"With candles in hand, we want to silently remember the victims of violence and spiritual repression under Stalinist tyranny," Magirius wrote.

More than 150,000 people were expected to join the early-evening vigil, the last pro-democracy rally planned before a two-week break over the Christmas holidays.

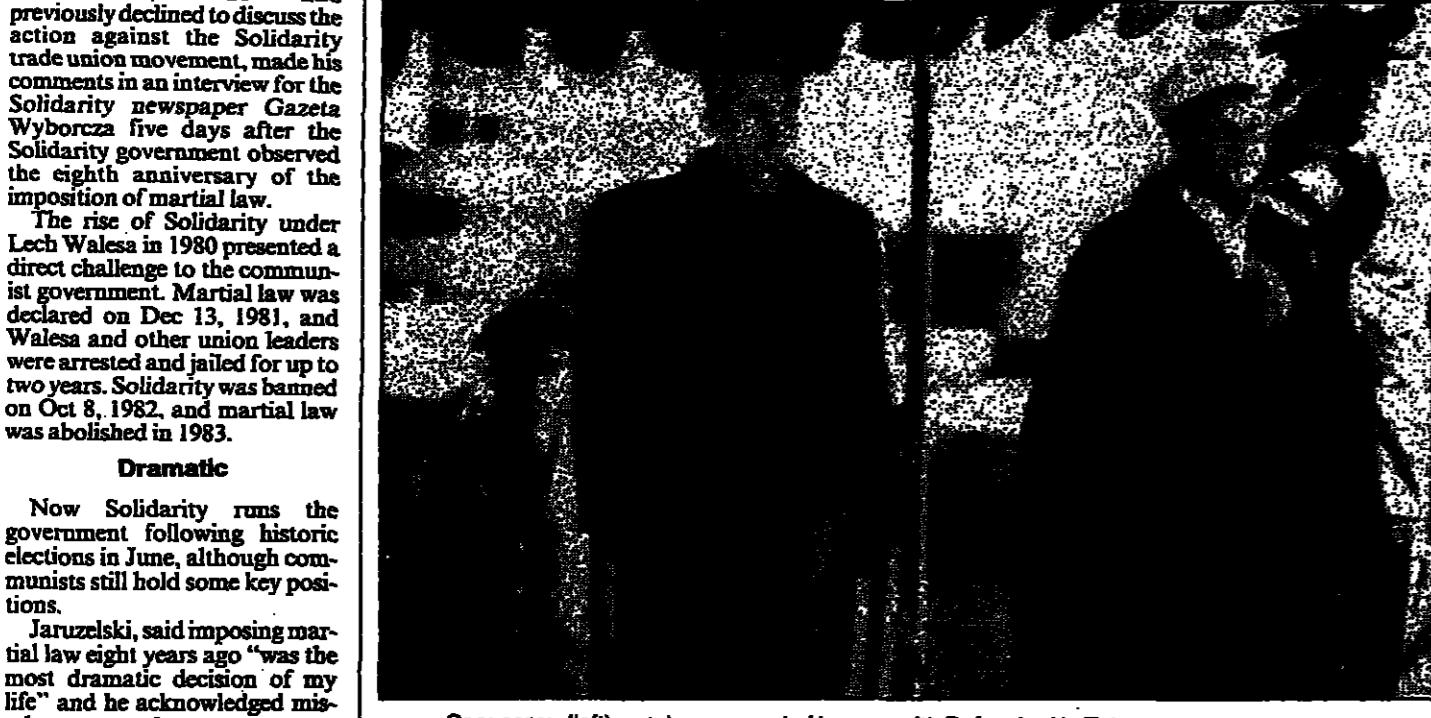
It was to end with a ringing of church bells throughout Leipzig, East Germany's second-largest city.

West German President Richard von Weizsaecker was greeted by cheering crowds yesterday during a private visit to Potsdam.

About 1,200 people jammed into St Nicholas church, where Weizsaecker was received by top East German officials including communist Premier Hans Modrow.

"I have waited for years to take part here," the stately, white-haired West German President said. "That I was now allowed to do so makes me very happy. I am very moved."

Weizsaecker travelled from his West Berlin home to Potsdam for a traditional afternoon of advent songs by area choirs.



Ceausescu (left) watches a guard of honour with Rafsanjani in Tehran. (Reuter wirephoto)

## GDR debates future

### Council of 40 to advise govt

EAST BERLIN, Dec 18. (AP): East German communists and opposition factions resumed talks today on the nation's future over the din of hundreds of reporters who banged on windows and demanded a part in the negotiations.

The forum brought together various political parties, social organisations and fledgling pro-democracy movements into a council of more than 40 that is to advise the interim government until free elections in May.

After two hours of debate, participants declined to allow five more groups, including the official Trade Union Federation, to take part in the talks and granted observer status to four more.

The negotiators agreed to meet each Monday to propose legislation. They also suggested that future discussions be carried live on television and radio.

Hundreds of demonstrators disrupted the first hour of today's session, using bullhorns to shout their demands to be included and banging on windows of the ground-floor conference room of the Lutheran church building where the talks were held.

"Anyone who tries to force his participation in this way is not acting in the interests of democracy," President Manfred Gerlach said as the noise overwhelmed speakers.

The participants proposed a message of solidarity to Communist Premier Hans Modrow and West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, who meet on Tuesday in Dresden.

They said the summit expresses the will of both nations to improve relations, but cautioned against moves that would damage the sovereignty of either state — a call to leave the reunification issue off the agenda.

Today's meeting came a day after the Communist Party concluded an emergency congress in which it embraced a multiparty system and changed its name to the socialist unity party of Germany — party of democratic socialism.

The long title reflects both a new orientation to democratic principles and an eagerness to divorce itself from the corruption and power abuses that tainted former communist leaders ousted in a pro-democracy movement that began in September.

New Communist Party leader Gregor Gysi and Wolfgang Berghofer, his chief deputy, opened the talks Dec 7.

**NOBODY** volunteered to head East Germany's disoriented communist party looked for a new chief this month, according to its new chairman.

Gregor Gysi, a human rights lawyer with no political experience, said his name came up for the once all-powerful post at a crisis party meeting only two or three days before he was elected on Dec 9. (Reuter)

**EAST GERMANY** will release 25 Western spies in exchange for four of its own held in West Germany later this week, the West German news agency DPA said today.

It said 100 political detainees would also be released from East German prisons. Most of the detainees are held for having attempted to flee the country.

It said the spy swap would take place later this week. The agency said West German secret service employees were among the 25 to be released by East Germany but did not say whether any other nationals were in that number. (OPT)

**THE WALL** of Stalinist prudery fell today as the first editions of West German men's magazines Playboy and Penthouse went on sale in an East Berlin hotel.

The glossy male magazines stood out among a new selection of West German newspapers and weeklies the exclusive Grand Hotel has started importing from West Berlin. (Reuter)

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# Failaka church will help close historical gap

## 50 samples being analysed for clues

By Jadranka Porter  
Arab Times staff

THE recent discovery of a fifth-century church in Failaka, by a French-Kuwaiti archaeological team will help close a void in Kuwait's early history, according to French archaeologist Jean-Francois Salles.

Salles, the head of expedition, said the remains of the church and the finds from a nearby building they excavated has yielded information to help fill about 300 years out of an eighth-century blank, from 100 AD to 900 AD, in Kuwait's past.

The church in Failaka, an island that is also known to have been an ancient Greek military outpost, is yet another proof that a sizeable Christian community populated the Gulf between the fifth and the ninth centuries. Similar churches and Christian sites have been discovered elsewhere in the Gulf.

The team's hopes of a special find in Failaka first soared last year when they discovered a stucco panel with an ornamental Christian cross and remains of a building whose walls were 1.8 metres thick.

After a four-week excavation that ended four days ago the researchers have a complete plan of the church but as yet unclear

picture of the purpose it served in the centuries after it had been built.

The 35m long and 20m wide church consisted of a nave and two aisles that extended from a narthex, or vestibule, over a small staircase to the main altar, flanked by cross-plan side chapels. The mud brick church was almost raised to the ground with now only a few sections of the wall reaching one metre in height.

More excavation is required to determine whether the church had, as the archaeologists suspect, a verandah and to explore the adjacent buildings.

### Features

They found another, more ornate stucco panel dated fifth or sixth century, of the type that was commonly found on other archaeological sites in the Middle East. The features of the cross indicate that the church could have been built by Nestorian Christians, an eastern Christian

Salles believes that at an as yet undetermined point in time the church was abandoned. He suspects that the roof was demolished for the valuable wood beams and the church collapsed becoming prey to erosion. However, in the early Abasid

period in mid-ninth century the stronger eastern part of the church appears to have been used, not as a place of worship but perhaps for leisure activities. Seven plaster panels featuring designs used in games still known in the region, have been found. In one of the buildings adjacent to the church appliances for grinding cereals were discovered.

### Significance

"This means that Failaka during Abasid period had crop cultivation," said Salles.

Much more is expected to be learnt about the people, their diet, housing, crops and crafts once the so far undated finds from a building close to the church are analysed. The researchers have collected 50 samples of animal and fish bones, shells and carbonated seeds that will offer valuable clues to experts reconstructing Kuwait's past. The archaeologists have also discovered a square, three metre-long well with a staircase leading to its lower levels. They found the water table at 4 metres below the surface but the water was brackish and undrinkable, said Salles who tasted it.

The house and the well are on the outskirts of what Salles thinks could have

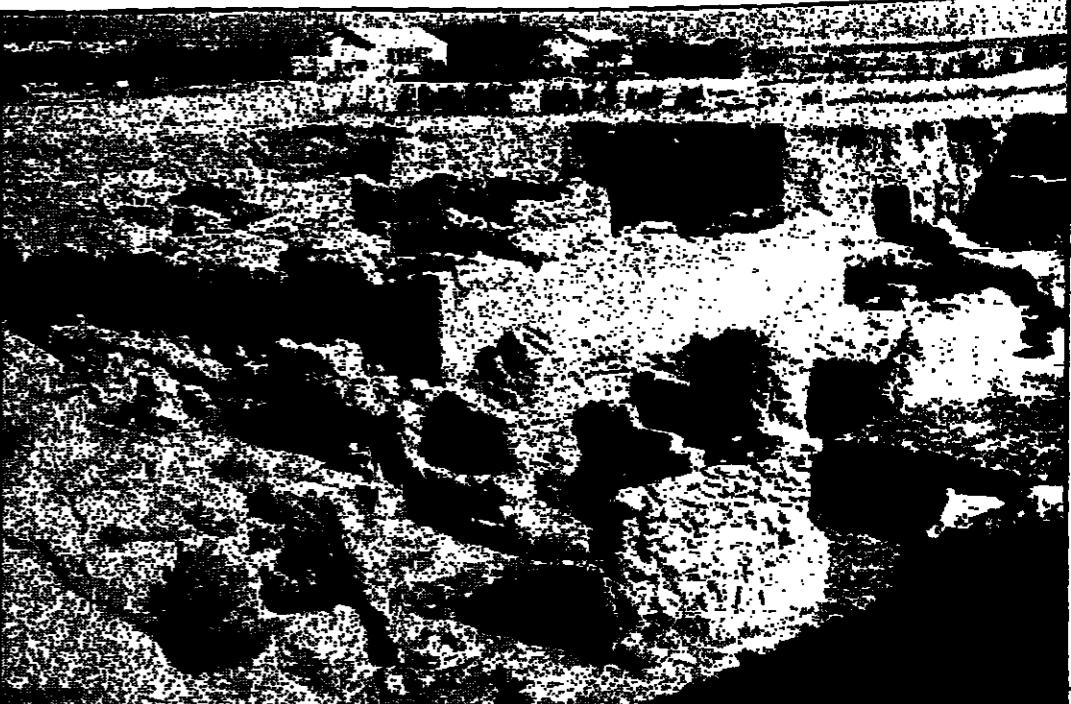
been a village while the church is located in its centre.

The site, known as Al Qusur, was first excavated by an Italian team in 1976 that missed the church by barely 100 metres. The Italians identified some 80 buildings but found little more than pieces of pottery.

The significance of the site extends beyond the boundaries of Kuwait, said Salles. There is evidence that a large Christian community lived in the Gulf between the fifth and ninth centuries under the pastoral care of seven bishops, and an archbishop with the seat in Bushir, Iran. A church was excavated three years ago in Al Jubail in Saudi Arabia and in 1960s a church and a large monastery were discovered in Kharq island, Iran. According to a Syriac text unearthed in Bahrain a bishop urged the believers to be more pious and attend a mass on Sundays instead of lounging in cafes sipping wine, says Salles who excavated extensively in Bahrain.

"It just could be that Failaka was one of the diocese under the care of one of the three as yet unidentified bishops," said Salles. "We have a new track to follow now, we have to go back to the texts."

Next year the French team returns to Failaka for further excavation.



File picture of excavations in Failaka.

## Shuaiba EPC wants more authority to fight

THE Environment Protection Centre at Shuaiba, Industrial Area should be empowered with more legal authority to prevent environmental pollution by factories in the area, said Al Hamdan, director of the centre said.

He said that the centre is hampered in its role in preventing government and private companies in the area from violating the limits of air and water pollution. One of the drawbacks, he said is that no fines are levied

against violators which weakens the authoritative powers of the centre. Presently, the centre's role is restricted to observing the percentage of pollution and to control the gas leaking in the area, he said.

Hamdan said that the Shuaiba Industrial Area took practical steps to determine measures for air and water pollution in the area in co-operation with state ministries and establishments as well as international consultative authorities. It also carried out a

number of projects to reduce pollution caused by factories in the area.

He added that the administration of the area established a new centre for environment protection which consists of seven main and four secondary labs equipped with the latest equipment.

The centre has installed automatic networks for controlling water and air polluters distributed within borders of the Shuaiba Industrial Area, Mina Abdulla and the near water area.

The network consists of eight stations for air pollution, six for exits and entries of cooling water and four stations for the marine area.

**Analysts**

These stations measure the polluters automatically and give results to the main computer at the centre. The centre conducts statistics and regular reports on pollution in the area. It also participates in planning studies on new industrial projects or in expanding present industries, he

said. Hamdan said that there is an automatic lab at the centre that analyses 40 samples per hour. Additionally, there is a biological lab that collects and analyses the marine creatures (planktons) that are considered main food of fish. The lab also conducts experiments on fish to determine the level of heavy minerals in their tissues that have a direct bearing on human beings on consumption of such fish, the official said.

In an interview with a local daily, Abdul Latif Al Mijhem, assistant undersecretary for financial affairs at Kuwait's Ministry of Public Health and chairman of the higher committee for fighting rodents said that international experts who participated in the first and second seminars had highly commended Kuwait's efforts in this respect.

## Anti-rodent campaign successful: Mijhem

171,723 rats annihilated

KUWAIT has continued to undertake a vigorous anti-rodent campaign the success of which has been acclaimed both locally and internationally, a senior public health official said.

In an interview with a local daily, Abdul Latif Al Mijhem, assistant undersecretary for financial affairs at Kuwait's Ministry of Public Health and chairman of the higher committee for fighting rodents said that international experts who participated in the first and second seminars had highly commended Kuwait's efforts in this respect.

He pointed out that Kuwait in 1980s had witnessed tremendous success in the area of rodent eradication and cited the eradication of the Norwegian mouse from the country. This was achieved by an intensive campaign aimed at annihilating this particular species.

He added that the 1990s will witness the eradication of the domestic rat. However, he commented that this particular pest possesses a strange ability to adapt to any given environment.

The eradication of these pests is based on a work-plan that takes into account the various complaints received from citizens. A total of 39,659 complaints had been received this year and about 171,723 house rats had been annihilated.

He added that a committee had been formed comprising a special fighting team to handle rats at foodstuff stores. About 3,000 Norwegian mice had perished in the experiment at the foodstuff stores in Shuaiba, Rai, Andi and Sabhan areas.

In addition about 426,000 different kinds of rodents at all the country's stores had been exterminated. Another committee has been formed for fighting these rodents at the country's ports and conduct these exercises every three months.

### Eradication

He disclosed that the field fighting process had covered about 52 areas with 22,209 buildings representing about 62 per cent of Kuwait's buildings. Additionally 295 ships were inspected and 13 ships were fumigated with anti-rodent chemicals.

Additionally Kuwait International Airport was also the

working teams to cover all areas in the country, with 16 in the Capital and Hawalli, four in Al Asimah, four in Jahra, three in Sehla, Al Salem, Centre and three in Al Rayyan, Island.

Meanwhile, during the last interview Dr Mohammed Omer, head of rodents fighting unit who said that the strategy aimed at fighting rodents in each building, store and all installations on a scientific basis.

He expressed satisfaction at the field fighting process, referring to the fact that vigilant control showed by the working teams have purged the various pockets where the vermin multiplied.

He added that the new evaluation system has been deployed by school principals, supervisors and teachers. Nevertheless, the ministry is determined to proceed with the application of the new experiment and had ignored these objections.

An official source said that the teaching staff at schools were unanimous in their opinions that the new system would not work as the ministry had not consulted any of the teaching staff on the implementation of the new system.

The source also said that in order to let the financial development keep abreast with administrative development, the ministry has restructured its finance department.

## Education Ministry to be reorganised

IN THE light of administrative development plans presently being instituted at Kuwait's Ministry of Education, considerable changes will be witnessed, a local daily quoted a ministry official as saying.

The official clarified that these changes will be represented mainly by the merger of some departments to avert overlapping and duplication of job functions.

The changes encompass the movement of officials to optimise their work requirements and streamline official job functions.

With respect to the appointments in the supervisory posts, the official said that these will be actioned taking into account the level of efficiency of these officials and their proficiency in dealing with their colleagues and the public. He added that other departments are currently under evaluation and appropriate decisions will be taken in due course.

Meanwhile, the official disclosed that according to the new changes, graduates of the Faculty of Arts will be given opportunities to work as assistant librarians in addition to other administrative posts. Such job opportunities will be awarded to graduates of the business college, he said.

Conversely, another official said that the ministry has conceded that there are functional overlapping in the job duties of the administrative and secretarial staff. In this respect, the ministry has decided to recently suspend the appointment of female secretaries, store keepers, registrars and other

## Malta summit may yield results: Zverev

KUWAIT, Dec 18, (Kuna): The superpowers informal summit, held on Dec 2-3 aboard Soviet and US naval ships off the coast of Malta, has allowed US President George Bush and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev reach agreement and understanding on several important mutual issues as well as the future of international relations. Soviet ambassador to Kuwait said.

Talking to a local Kuwaiti daily, Ernest N. Zverev said among the positive outcomes of the summit was the assurance of the two sides on the importance of continuing and upgrading the dialogue between the two countries in order to reach political understanding and eventually tangible results.

The summit produced a new momentum for reviving the Vienna talks, which have been conducted for 15 years and preparing an agreement for cutting conventional arms in Europe next summer, Zverev added.

The ambassador indicated that the two presidents reached a joint understanding on importance of non-interfering in internal affairs of the European countries or pressuring them.

He indicated that the Soviet-US relations were extensively discussed and for the first time ever the American side showed interest in economic cooperation with the Soviet Union.

Whether the Iraq-Iran dispute was discussed, the Soviet diplomat said it was not.



Alba at watches exhibition

Kuwait Commerce and Industry Ministry's assistant undersecretary Rashid Abdallah Al Majid pictured at the Alba stall at the watches and gifts exhibition held recently at the Mishref International Fair Ground.

A wide range of Alba watches were displayed. Also, the gold plated 18k Laurenti Dodane watches were also shown at the stall which witnessed a very big success during the exhibition.

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## Blind orchestra to perform classics here

KUWAIT, Dec 18, (Kuna): A woman activist said today that the orchestra of Al Nour Wal Amal Association is the first musical group in the entire world that groups blind girls who play classical and Arabic music.

Member of the board of directors and social and information committee at the Kuwaiti Women Cultural Association Ahdam Shamas said that the Egyptian delegation will arrive in Kuwait on January 11 to perform a musical concert at Kuwait International Hotel on January 13 and 15.

Speaking at a press conference she said that part of the money gathered at the fund raising concert will be given as a present to the Al Nour Wal Amal Orchestra and the rest will be distributed to needy persons in Kuwait.

She added that the symphony orchestra of Al Nour Wal Amal Association is unique and its members are all girls and women who are all blind.

Speaking to Kuna Haifa Al Sager, member at the Kuwaiti Women's Association said that the group is composed of 35 players who play all sorts of instruments.

She added that the orchestra groups talented girls who played for the first time at Cairo's opera in 1971.

The girls ages range from 13 to 25, she pointed out.

In April 1989 wife of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak attended the performance of the orchestra at one of the two best concert halls in Cairo, El Gomhoreya.

The three branches provide vocational training.

The aim of the organisation is to assist these blind girls achieve self-dependence and integration in their families and in the society outside the organisation.

**Appointments**

The association has three main sections the school, the vocational training programme and the music institute.

The school opened in 1958 with 20 pupils.

The Egyptian Ministry of Education provides all the teachers who are trained to teach the blind in the Braille method.

To the vocational training programme the girls are admitted from ages 13 to 30 and are trained over a period of three

months in hand work, knitting on machines and carpet weaving.

After the three-month period the girls specialise for another year and a half in the section they are best suited. They are then appointed to jobs in workshops and factories with the assistance of the association.

The music institute started in 1961 and was established by Dr Samaa El Kholy, ex-dean of the National Higher Institute of Music (conservatoire) and ex-director of the Academy of Arts with only 19 pupils but the number has risen to reach more than 80.

The institute is staffed with highly qualified music teachers.

At least twice a week the girls perform together as an orchestra under the leadership of maestro Ahmed Aboul El

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KUWAIT ... GULF

## Municipality to re-study expropriation of homes

KD600 million allocated

THE Municipal Affairs Committee will accord priority to re-studying the guidelines of expropriation of private houses in the country in accordance with new regulations, Musa Al Sarraf, director of the department at Kuwait Municipality said.

Expropriation is aimed at distributing the national income among citizens and has lately been developed to be one of the means of economic activation. This

becomes a reality when one views the fact that the value paid for real estate expropriated is far in excess of its true value.

Sarraf explained that in some cases, the state uses its power to expropriate real estate owned by citizens such as when there is necessity to organise the area or if the real estate in question is an obstacle for reorganising the area.

In these cases, the owner of the real

estate is given substitute real estate or compensated in cash.

The state has taken possession of all real estates that have been approved by the municipal committee. The state allocated KD600 million for expropriating real estates. The new law developed procedures and thus reduced the annual budget of expropriation to KD25 million while it stood at KD150 million previously.

However, he said that the number of

expropriated real estates has been reduced. This is because the law has limited it to the actual needs of the state.

The municipality will finalise those real estates that are to be expropriated — specially in Jileeb Al Shiyoukh, Hawalli, Khetan, Farwaniya, Samiya and Binaid Al Gar, the official said. He added that there are some areas specialised for housing projects in Murgab and North Sabawer.

## Next summit in Doha

(Continued from Page 1)

United States and Britain have so far failed.

Qaboos told the summit he hoped Iran and Iraq would reach a final settlement to their conflict.

"We hope that these two countries will pave the way for these negotiations to achieve a permanent solution," he said in reference to UN-sponsored peace negotiations.

Qaboos, expressed support for Arab peace efforts in Lebanon and for the Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The Oman News Agency said Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev urged the GCC leaders to take balanced decisions to help to resolve Middle East problems.

"I hope the conference will be a success..." Gorbachev said in a cable to the six leaders.

US President George Bush and UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cesar also sent messages to Sultan Qaboos supporting efforts to resolve the Iran-Iraq war peacefully.

Earlier crowds lined the route to cheer the heads of state as they arrived in Muscat amid tight security.

The next summit meeting of the GCC will be held in Doha, the capital of Qatar, it was revealed here today.

The new budget for the secretariat-general of the Gulf Co-operation Council countries (GCC) will reach 16 million Saudi riyals, which is equivalent to \$2.21 million, equally distributed at one sixth among each of the six countries, a daily newspaper reported.

Without agreement, it would be impossible to realise the full common market envisaged in the GCC's 1981 founding pact, and it would complicate already long and complicated talks with the EEC, said Quito.

Gulf Arab states must agree on a unified tariffs policy if they are to have any hope of persuading the European Economic Community to drop painful protective barriers against them, Gulf officials say.

A common tariffs policy for the six nations of the GCC is as important as their more dramatic political effort to prevent another Gulf war, analysts say.

Without a common policy, the GCC cannot present a unified position in difficult talks with Brussels over EEC tariffs and quotas against GCC products, especially petrochemicals.

Ahead of the summit, senior GCC official for economic affairs Abdullah Al Qutub said the issue was particularly important.

"Without a unified policy on customs tariffs, any dialogue between the EEC and the GCC will not achieve results," Bahrain Development and Industry Minister Yousef Shirawi said in November.

The current EEC tariff structure, coupled with collapsing oil prices in the 1980s, helped turn the balance of GCC trade with the EEC from a \$25.6 billion surplus in 1981 to a deficit in the last three years averaging around five billion a year.

EEC products account for over 40 per cent of the GCC import market. The next biggest is Japan with over 15 per cent.

### Premier receives

KUWAIT, Dec 18 (Kuna): HH the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah today received in his diwan at Bayan Palace here commander of the National Guard Sheikh Salem Al Ali, Interior Minister Sheikh Salem Al Sabah, Defence Minister Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmed and Minister of Justice and Legal Affairs Dhari Abdalla Al Ottoman.

His Highness also received Hmoud Al Nisif, Sheikh Mishel Al Ahmed, Chairman of the Jura Government's Council Fahad Al Hajraf, member of the Farwaniyah Governorate's Council Barak Al Noor and member of Ahmad Governorate's Council Ayed Alkoush.



Salem receives Indian envoy

Interior Minister Sheikh Salem Al Sabah received yesterday the Ambassador of India to Kuwait, Arun Kumar Buddha. Talks centred on mutual concerns. Sheikh Salem also received yesterday Philippine Ambassador Mohammed Mauyug Tamari.

### Tax on Palestinians

## Another suppression method, says Jalal

By Taleb Al Khalafawi

Arab Times staff

IMPOSING heavy taxes on Palestinians in the occupied lands is another suppressive method of the Israelis to force Arabs out of the land, according to Taleb Al Jalal, the former director of Income Tax Offices in Nablus and Tulkarm.

Jalal gave a lecture yesterday about the Israeli policy of imposing taxes as a weapon against Arabs in the occupied lands, and said that the West Bank before 1973 was following Jordanian rules and Gaza Strip followed Egyptian rules. According to the International Law of The Hague Agreement, occupation forces should continue to levy taxes in accordance with the old law.

Unfortunately, he said the tax law No. 25/1964 in the West Bank was cancelled and new Israeli rules were enforced instead.

### Laws

Jalal added that exemption from taxes for a family of six members with an annual income was 320 Jordanian dinars until 1972, but under the occupation was 314 JD. However, the law in Jordan was amended in 1982 and exemption was raised to 1427 JD which means 178 monthly income, while tax exemption for the Arab family in the occupied lands remained 26 JD per month.

Another tax was collected on goods and dubbed as tax on certificate of origin of the goods. This policy resulted in suffocating the economic activity inside the occupied lands and urged the Arabs to buy their goods from Israelis to avoid paying this tax.

He added that other measures were used against the farmers by forcing them to plant certain

kinds of vegetable and fruits. The yields were sold at lower prices to cover their expenses. Heavy taxes were imposed on livestock, poultry as one of the measures against the Arabs to stop the food self-sufficiency policy.

Jalal said that to make life more difficult for Arabs there, tax telephone bill was raised to 20 JD a month. Also all electric equipment was taxed in addition to cars, irrespective of the model.

The Israeli policy of tax discrimination among Arabs succeeded in preventing staging strikes and protests on tax policy. But at last Israel was able to impose the heavy taxes on all Arabs in the occupied lands.

The tax policy of Israel increased to 55 per cent for those with annual incomes of 4,500 JD, while people in Jordan with annual incomes of more than 9,500 pay 50 per cent as tax.

He said that awareness campaigns were staged at Al Najah University in Nablus to enlighten Palestinians about their rights. Those lectures were stopped by Israelis and considered as dangerous activities.

Jalal concluded that making life expensive by levying charges on essential services in the occupied lands is another suppressive Israeli action to ensure that Palestinians would migrate in ever-increasing numbers. Basically, the increase in tax policy advocated by the Israeli occupation forces is directed towards uprooting the Palestinians from their legitimate homelands and ensuring their mass exodus.

## Arabs should be given priority: Sarawi

THE increase in the inflow of foreign workers has created rivalry among different nationalities and additionally this workforce encounters difficulties in co-existing with the local customs and traditions, Abdulaziz Al Sarawi, ex-minister of Social Affairs and Labour said.

The official categorically stated that priority must be given to Arab manpower, clarifying that dependence on foreign workforce will definitely affect the march of upgrading the national workforce.

Sarawi called for developing human resources to play their vital role towards achieving self-sufficiency in manpower on a long-term basis.

Meanwhile, the official called for reviewing the labour laws and other laws periodically to bridge any loopholes and enhance their potentials. He added that the law should be flexible and capable of accommodating any revisions in the future. He also advocated undertaking a public awareness campaign of the various laws.

Speaking of the co-operative movement in the country, Sarawi said that the movement had contributed significantly towards developing these services, particularly when compared to its counterparts in the region. He said that he was proud of the Kuwaiti co-operative movement which represented one of the country's landmarks.

He said that the strength and expertise of the co-operative societies rested on the quality of board members elected and expressed his displeasure towards appointments of some directors at the societies boards by the ministry.

Replying to a question on social care in Kuwait, the ex-minister expressed his satisfaction on the level of such care extended, but, recommended undertaking a periodical review of the rules and regulations governing such care. To obtain optimum input in the process of reviewing these regulations, he said that this could be realised through getting feed-back from those who benefit from the social care system in the country.

He added: "It is our duty to extend necessary aid to the needy." But, this should coincide with arranging of the pre-qualification program-

mes for the needy families to benefit from their abilities to let them achieve self-dependence and integrate them into the mainstream of society.

Speaking on the divorce problem in the country, he said that this is a vital problem and should be given priority with the involvement of a cross-section of specialists. He said that the government alone will not be able to find the necessary solutions, but would need the active co-operation and collaboration of other involved parties. He commented that the co-operation between the government and the private welfare societies could arrive at some workable solutions — at least in so far as minimising the divorce rate, if not totally eradicating this phenomenon.

Sarawi advocated increasing assistance to be given to divorced women, widows, with the proviso that each individual case be followed up closely.

### Delinquency

Commenting on juvenile delinquency in Kuwait, Sarawi said that this issue is a complicated one and needs careful handling. He said that most juveniles were victims of a certain set of circumstances. He added that in the developed countries, they dealt with juveniles as patients rather than criminals.

He called on official authorities and welfare societies to co-operate towards surmounting the juvenile delinquency phenomenon in Kuwait, adding that necessary educational programmes and religious guides could play an essential role towards realising targeted objectives.

Meanwhile, Sarawi commented that Kuwait still extends the best care to handicapped individuals. The relevant policy keeps abreast with local customs and traditions and additionally the government supports national and international efforts in this field.

He said that expenditures for solving the problems of the handicapped should be viewed as a social and economic investment and this aspect should be given every concern and priority. He called for preparing this section of the community towards becoming productive.

## Bid to reduce mental retardation

## Metabolic screening for new-born babies

By Jadranka Porter  
Arab Times staff

a boost when it was established that the annual cost of the entire programme would amount to a fraction of the spending on the care of a few mentally retarded patients.

Dr Sadiqa Al Awadi,

head of the Genetics Centre which deals with hereditary diseases, said the government spends annually KD3,600 just on the education of a handicapped person.

"The screening will remove the burden from the parents, doctors and government," she said.

Mental and physical disability in infants has been of particular concern to the Kuwaiti health workers because of the tendency among the Gulf Arabs towards inbreeding. Kuwait is the only other Arab state in addition to Egypt that boasts a Genetics Centre. The centre, which also serves other Arab countries, has launched a counselling service that warns of the risks of inbreeding and urges closely related young people to undergo special tests before they decide to get married.

According to the centre's three-year pilot study that began in 1985, PKU and hypothyroidism each were found only in three babies out of 20,000 tested infants. But the study also revealed that these hereditary defects affect one of every four family members.



Afforestation campaign at Paaet

The Students and Training Affairs Office at the Technical Studies College for girls at the Public Authority for Education and Training started an afforestation campaign on the college campus yesterday morning. The campaign was attended and opened by the college dean, Dr Sulaiman Shams Al Deen and director of the Scholarships and Cultural Relations Department, Ahmad Al Kandari along with a number of high officials and students. The dean planted a tree at the college official entrance to mark the opening of the campaign.

## Saudi shrimp catch better

By Diana Abou Hader  
Arab Times staff

THANKS to scientific research and proper legislation, Saudi Arabian shrimp catch from the Gulf has substantially improved after a period of over-exploitation in the late seventies caused by lack of regulations concerning fishing methods and protection of shrimp stock during mating season, Abdul Rahman Abou Aba said.

The Director General of the Food Resources Division in the Saudi Ministry of Agriculture and Water told the participants in the "Kuwait Symposium on Shrimp and Fin Fisheries Management in GCC countries" that the shrimp catch rose from 1,752 tons in 1978 to more than 6,800 tons in 1987.

He added that the shrimp stock recovery was achieved by adopting a closed season policy as well as a series of regulations that specified the types of fishing nets to be used and banned a number of fishing methods such as electric shock and use of chemicals.

Abu Aba stressed the need for improving communication channels between scientific research centres in GCC countries, and the need for unifying fishing methods and closed seasons.



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## ARAB TIMES

## Thought for today

EATING words has never given me indigestion — Sir Winston Churchill, British statesman (1874-1965).

## Israel losing crucial demographic race

## Arab birth rate high

HAIFA, Israel, (CMS): Like a modern-day Jeremiah, the Old Testament prophet who warned the Jews of impending doom, Arnon Soffer has a blunt, unwelcome message for his Israeli countrymen.

The Haifa University geographer says Jews losing a crucial demographic race to Arabs in "greater Israel," which includes the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, as well as in Israel itself. Unless Israel gives up control of the territories and makes dramatic efforts to "Judaize" Galilee, in northern Israel, the Jewish state could be imperiled, Professor Soffer warns.

"The demography is going to endanger the future of Israel," says Soffer, whose conclusions have drawn fierce criticism from many Israeli conservatives.

To make his case, Soffer traces the outline of "Eretz (Greater) Israel" on a map of the Levant.

Palestinian Arabs have one of the highest birth rates in the world, he says, citing figures from Israel's Central Bureau of Statistics. The 75,000 Jews who have settled in the West Bank since 1967 have been matched by the natural growth rate of Arabs in just 30 months. By the year 2000 the Jewish-Arab population ratio in Greater Israel could approach parity, making Israel binational.

## Settlement

"Although the general impression is that settlement achievements were all on the Jewish side... an analysis of various trends throughout Eretz Israel in the past 20 years reveals a very different picture," Soffer wrote recently in the Jerusalem Quarterly. "The Arab population, it turns out, is growing stronger within its area of residence..."

Inside Israel, the figures have equally grave implications, says the controversial academic.

Three years ago Jews became a minority in north, with Arabs constituting up to 80 per cent of the population of western and lower Galilee. In the areas surrounding cities like Nazareth and Shefaram, villages are becoming cities, and cities are merging to become small Arab megalopolises. Meanwhile, housing shortages are prompting Arabs to migrate to Jewish areas, posing the threat of a "creeping annexation" of Jewish strongholds like Haifa.

## Unrest

Israel may be living on borrowed time, Soffer says. Citing Northern Ireland and the Baltic republics as examples of ethnic unrest, Soffer says it will only be a matter of time before separatist tendencies take root among Israeli Arabs who are daily gaining greater demographic clout and political awareness.

"It has already been proven that wherever there is a small minority that becomes a majority in its own area of residence, an aspiration to secede from the central entity also develops," he says.

Some Israelis acknowledge the demographic problem, but insist that Israel must retain the territories as a buffer against a possible future Arab invasion.

According to a poll published last month in the Hebrew daily Haaretz, 52 per cent of Israelis now favour the "transfer" or forced expulsion of Arabs from the territories, if a way to peace is not found. Six months ago only 38 per cent of Israelis favoured transfer. Even if a quarter of a million Arabs were expelled, it would not dent the demographic problem, says Soffer.

Nor will Jewish immigrants arrive on Israel's shores in sufficient number to "Judaize" the territories and Galilee simultaneously.

The right wing's "efforts to Judaize the West Bank are a joke," says Soffer, referring to the 100-odd Jewish communities in the territories. "We need to focus our efforts on Galilee where we can do something."

That means Israel must invest in housing and jobs to make Galilee attractive to the 100,000 Soviet immigrants expected in the next three years. But such a massive diversion of funds would almost certainly be resisted by parliamentarians, most of whom represent influential metropolitan areas.

With two thirds of the Arabs under 20 and thus entering the period of fertility (as compared to 38 per cent for Israeli Jews), Israel will have to face up to giving up the territories, spending more in tendencies there, granting full civil rights to Israeli Arabs, says Soffer.

Failure to do so, he says, will set in motion a dark train of events that will "sound the death knell of the Jewish state": growing extremism, more repressive Israeli measures to contain it, a weakening of Israeli democracy. High defense expenditures retarding economic growth, reduced immigration, and weaker ties with the Jewish Diaspora.

"People don't want to accept the figures," says Soffer. "But unless the problems (of the territories and Galilee) are solved simultaneously, the problem that is now Israel versus the territories will become a problem of Jew versus Arab in all of Israel."

## TODAY IN HISTORY

1688 — William of Orange enters London.  
1793 — Napoleon Bonaparte takes Toulon.  
1795 — Austria signs armistice with France.  
1842 — United States recognizes independence of Hawaii.  
1885 — German dispute with Spain over Caroline Islands in Pacific is settled in favour of Spain.  
1902 — Germany, Britain and Italy blockade Venezuela.  
1909 — Civil war starts in Honduras.  
1915 — British troops begin withdrawal from Sulva and Anzac in Gallipoli in World War I.  
1941 — German dictator Adolf Hitler faces military setbacks in World War II, dismisses his chief of staff and takes personal command of German Army.  
1946 — War breaks out in Indo-China as troops under Ho Chi Minh launch widespread attacks against French.  
1961 — Goa and two other Portuguese enclaves on India's west coast fall to Indian invaders.  
1962 — Senegal's President Leopold Senghor takes charge of government in Dakar after ouster of the West African nation's premier.  
1971 — Pakistan's President Agha Mohammed Yahya Khan quits office after military defeat in fighting with India in East Pakistan.  
1972 — US Apollo 17 spacecraft splashes down on target in Pacific Ocean, windup of US Apollo programme of landing men on Moon.  
1985 — Gunmen kidnap 10 Christians in Beirut, Lebanon, stepping up campaign of terror.  
1988 — UN Secretary-general Javier Perez de Cuellar asks security council approval of 70-member peacekeeping force to monitor withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola.



Sri Lankan troops march in the southern town of Koggala during a training session. (Reuter wirephoto)

## Violence continues unabated

## Wijeweera's ghost haunts Lanka

TANGALLE, Sri Lanka, (Reuter): Sri Lanka's most feared rebel chieftain, a bespectacled Soviet-educated Marxist, set out in 1987 on a violent campaign to topple the government.

Rohana Wijeweera was slain last month before he could accomplish his goal, but only after thousands had been killed during the campaign.

Official relief at his death may have been premature. His followers seem determined to take up his legacy.

"The match is over," declared a jubilant Deputy Defence Minister Ranjan Wijeratne, announcing the capture and death of the powerful rebel leader last month.

Yet Wijeweera's birthplace of Tangalle, 190 km (120 miles) south of Colombo, the fighting and destruction are far from over and murders average three a day.

Villagers are reluctant to believe that Wijeweera — who attained something approaching folk-hero status among many fellow Sinhalese in his native town — is dead.

"It's just government propaganda," said one elderly rice farmer.

The government said Wijeweera, 47, the elusive leader of the leftist People's Liberation Front, was killed on Nov 13 in Colombo in a shoot-out between troops and another rebel.

Wijeweera was later shown on state television urging his men to end the violence and surrender. His statement was recorded a few hours before he was killed.

The rebel leader, who once described himself as a "Marxist-Leninist and a professional revolutionary politician," was born in the coastal village of Tangalle.

He studied political economics and Marxist philosophy at Patrice Lumumba University in the

Soviet Union from 1961 to 1964. In the late 1960s, he founded the front that is popularly known by its Sinhalese initials, JVP.

Wijeweera took advantage of a wave of anger at the landing of Indian troops on the island in July 1987 to help end a Tamil separatist rebellion, launching a bloody campaign to overthrow the government based on anti-Indian sentiment.

About 8,000 people have died in his two-year-old campaign. Politicians and their supporters, government officials, security personnel and their families were among the victims.

Wijeratne, who is also foreign minister, said rebel violence had waned since the death of Wijeweera and the capture of other leaders. "It is a matter of time before we wipe out the rest," he said.

This month, however, 100 rebels attacked police in Dickwella, five km (three miles) from Tangalle, retreating only after four of their number were accidentally killed by their own explosives.

"The fight would have gone on for hours," a military source said. "The attackers cut trees and blocked the road to stop reinforcements from a nearby army camp."

Driving to Tangalle, destruction is evident — dozens of felled trees lie by the roadside, many fallen across power and telephone lines.

The rice farmer said there was still much popular support for the JVP. "They're our boys and they're fighting for a better deal," he said.

He said residents stay indoors after dark, fearing not JVP attacks but reprisals by pro-government vigilante squads that have killed dozens of young men to avenge JVP murders.

On Dec 3, the JVP killed a suspected police informant and spiked his head on a post in nearby Kottegoda. Retribution was swift. Four young men

were shot, their bodies spreadeagled across the road the next day.

Tangalle residents said 18 people were killed on the beach recently after rebels burned down a tractor agency partly owned by the government.

"There is no let-up in the violence," said a retired journalist in Kottegoda. He said few people believed the government version of Wijeweera's death.

The government said Wijeweera died in crossfire at a rebel hideout in Colombo. Most people said they suspected the Army killed the JVP leader and concocted the story.

After his death, newspapers reported on Wijeweera's alleged luxurious lifestyle.

He was said to own two plush bungalows in the central hills. "(Wijeweera) ate turkey and drank champagne," Wijeratne said. "Wijeweera lived a double life, urging his men to live and eat off the jungles while he had a comfortable life."

His brother, who runs a grocery store in Tangalle with his wife, is in hiding, fearing the vigilantes.

His wife still runs the store but refused to talk to visiting reporters. Residents said most people avoid the shop for fear of reprisals.

"It is only those travelling past the town and unaware of the connection who walk into the shop for supplies," one resident said.

Few residents thought Wijeweera's death would halt the violence.

Police officials agreed.

"As long as the government fails to solve long-standing issues among young people, such as equal opportunities in employment and education, the rebels will survive," said one officer who declined to be named.

"A new leader may emerge and take over the reins."

## Sombre Christmas in Bethlehem

## Israeli troops watch from rooftops



Two tourists wearing the traditional Arab headdress visit the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem. (Reuter wirephoto)

occupied Jerusalem.

Israeli Army observation points sprout from rooftops on both sides of the square. Soldiers wander the streets in groups, ammunition clips ready and tear-gas canisters mounted to their US-made M-16 assault rifles.

In the summer, Israeli security forces dressed as tourists shot dead a Palestinian throwing stones at Israeli troops in the town's market where genuine tourists used to wander.

In the autumn, residents in the adjoining community of Beit Sahour refused to pay taxes to the Israelis and were punished with an Army siege, confiscation of belongings and jail terms.

The sense of danger, combined with numerous protest strikes and the daily closure of Palestinian shops after noon by order of the uprising's leaders has crippled the tourist industry that had made Bethlehem prosperous.

"The people come on buses, go to the Church of the Nativity and then get back on the buses," Jack Tabash said in his Bethlehem art gallery shop. "The tourists don't come into the shop."

Nasser painted a grim picture of dwindling civic finances that could soon lead to a drastic cut in basic services.

In an interview in his office above Manger Square, he said the municipality was collecting only about a quarter of the revenue it spent. The balance, Nasser

said, came from funds allocated for now abandoned projects.

But, despite emphasising the costs and calling for good relations with Israel, Nasser said Palestinians had no alternative to continuing the uprising until the occupation ended.

If Christmas is a time elsewhere for putting aside troubles and conflicts, in Bethlehem the day will only underline them.

"It will be a very sad Christmas," said Nasser. "Our citizens are not prepared for a big celebration, not even in their homes."

As in the first two holidays during the uprising, the town has decided to leave streets and Manger Square bare of their traditional decorations. Last year Israeli authorities decorated the Square's Christmas tree themselves.

The Christmas Eve service from the Church of the Nativity is to be broadcast around the world as usual, but each guest will have passed numerous Israeli Army checkpoints to reach it.

## Letters to the editor

## Au revoir

SIR: Thirty years, or practically half life-span, is certainly a long time; to have lived it in a foreign land and then leaving for one's native shores is more than heartbreaking. We are leaving Kuwait for good tomorrow.

One's adopted country becomes the home away from home and looking back through the kaleidoscope of the years, the expatriate carries back with him the most precious possession of all — happy memories of yester years.

And so, although "all parting in life is sad," one must come to terms with it, and we must, in all sincerity, express our profound gratitude to the government and people of Kuwait for their hospitality and the opportunity given us to work and earn a decent and honest living here.

I wish to express our sincere thanks to the management and the staff of Messrs. Ahmed Abbas Al Shawaaf and Bros. My wife thanks the management and the staff of Messrs. Behbehani Motors Company, for their kind cooperation extended to her during the tenure of her services with them.

To all who have touched or enriched our lives in even the smallest way we say "MAY GOD BE WITH YOU, ALWAYS."

'Au Revoir Et Bon Chance.....

Mr & Mrs Gabriel Castellino,  
Safat

ALL Letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

## Collor attracts masses, bankers

RIO DE JANEIRO, (Reuter): Conservative populist candidate Fernando Collor de Mello defeated socialist firebrand Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva in Brazil's presidential election, the first in 29 years.

Collor, an avowed economic conservative who was virtually unknown early this year, won the vote by projecting himself as a man outside the establishment.

His crusade against overpaid government employees took him to the top of opinion polls in April where he remained until the first-round Nov 15 vote.

The 40-year-old black-belt karate expert, raising his clenched fist high, also would say to crowds on the campaign trail: "I'll put the crooks behind bars." His audiences would go wild.

Some political analysts attributed Collor's success to first-rate marketing and the support of Brazil's most powerful businessman, Roberto Marinho, the owner of Globo media empire. But there was more to his success.

"Collor managed to synthesise the electorate's desire for change," the Folha de Sao Paulo newspaper said.

The uneducated masses in Brazil, adored Collor's virulent attacks on President Jose Sarney whom he blamed for their plight. They did not seem to care that Collor did not attend a single televised debate and that he is a member of Brazil's privileged elite.

He was born on August 12, 1949, into a traditional political family which owns a television station, radio station and newspaper.

His father, Arnon Affonso de Mello, was state senator for the small, poor northeastern coastal state of Alagoas where Collor was born. In 1963, Affonso de Mello shot a fellow senator to death on the floor of congress.

Though usually described as right-of-centre, Collor's ideology remains unclear.

Quote me

“If they don't want to risk strikes, chaos and international shame, I plead with them not to complicate the situation and not to expose themselves to the danger of being condemned by the public, but to understand the call of this moment. Very soon, we should have someone suitable in the (presidential) castle, preferably before the end of this year.” — Vaclav Havel in a speech to the communist deputies in the Czechoslovak parliament.

“If there is still any group planning to do this, I am warning them — the armed forces will be there to confront them and stop them and crush them.” — Philippine Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Renato de Villa vowing to repel any further coup attempt.

“However we may welcome the new marriage between the superpowers, we cannot reconcile to the idea of sending Soviet Jews to Israel as part of the dowry deal.” — A Kuwaiti newspaper.

“He was a symbol of courage and wisdom. He was one of the very few who had the courage to oppose totalitarianism. This is a great loss for the Soviet Union and the East European reform process.” — Lech Walesa said about Sakharov's death.

“No one has the right to prevent me from feeling like a human being. But what I can tell you is this, should there be any other moment to make the same painful decision, I will do it, because I recognise my duty as a soldier.” — Gen. Rodolfo Diaz of the Philippines who played a crucial role in fending off the rebel coup attempt.

“The relationship between the government and myself was legalised. I had to apply for a certain type of passport and pay off my education. I'm just officially living outside the country now, even though I'm still a Czech citizen.” — Ivan Lendl.





### First Arabian Gulf UNIX Conference

THE Minister of Planning, Dr Abdul Rahman Al Awadi, inaugurated the First Arabian Gulf UNIX Conference, which started yesterday at one of the local hotels. The three-day conference is the first of its kind in the region solely to UNIX technology. It serves as the first official inauguration of UNIX in the Arab World and the launching pad for UNIX in the 1990's. The event focusses on UNIX systems and solutions in the Arab World for the 1990's. It features exhibits from major UNIX software and hardware vendors, UNIX conferences led by speakers from well-known multinational corporations and UNIX tutorials and primers presented by leading experts in the field. It is an event not to be missed by any individual or firm currently involved with UNIX or anyone curious about contemplating using UNIX in the future.

As we enter the 1990's, the UNIX marketplace continues to expand throughout the world as UNIX becomes more of a standard in government and industry. The demand for UNIX in the Arab World is still lagging behind the rest of the world for lack of information and awareness as well as Arabisation solutions. This conference addresses all of these issues. Such an event is much awaited and promises to be a great success.

### WHAT'S ON

#### ARTS

##### Seminar

THERE will be a seminar at the DAA on "Arabic & European Art in the Light of Zodiacal Symbolism" December 10, 1989 - January 10, 1990. Sunday and Tuesday 11.00 - 12.30 am. Anyone wishing to register for this seminar may do so at the DAA during museum hours.

##### SOCIAL

**Southerners**  
DEC 22: Southerners invite their members and guests to celebrate X'mas family get-together at the Ramada Al Salam Hotel (the new Al Mirage Ballroom) to the excellent music by Top Ranks and Mr Leo's Magic Show. Santa Clause will be distributing gifts to all kids and other attractive gifts to prize winners. Fun and entertainment for entire family starting from 10am on December 22, 1989. For passes contact Ligory on 2425705 or 2412444.

**IAC Children's Competition**  
THE dates of finals of the Children's Competition will take place at IAC Funaitees on 13th, 14th, 15th, 27th and 28th December '89 and 18th January '90 respectively. For more details contact Indian Schools.



### Promoted!

PHILIPPINE Consul General Olivia V. Palala last week received official confirmation of her promotion to the post she took up earlier this year.

Palala, who was promoted on the merit of her performance, had been waiting since June for confirmation of her post from the headquarters in Manila. It came on Dec 13. She took the oath before Ambassador Dr Mauyag Mohammad Tamano. She has been in Kuwait for the last three years and is a popular figure at many Filipino cultural and social events.

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# BUSINESS & FINANCE

## Third World urged to join efforts on ozone layer

CAIRO, Dec 18, (Reuters): Holes in the ozone layer caused mainly by industrialised nations may never be repaired unless developing countries join efforts to stop the damage, delegates at a Cairo conference on the environment said.

Scientists say the ozone layer, which protects the earth's atmosphere from harmful ultraviolet radiation, is being depleted by man-made gases, including CFCs (chlorofluorocarbons) used in aerosols, refrigerators and electronics.

After holes in the ozone were detected over the Antarctic, industrialised nations introduced steps to curb and eventually phase out the use of CFCs.

Participants at the conference, organised by the Egyptian government and the UN Environment Programme, warned that this effort would be undermined if developing countries took over technology discarded by the West.

"In 1986, OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) countries used about one kilogramme of CFCs per head," said British Minister of State for the Environment David Trippier.

"If developing countries were to increase their use to just one-tenth of that and continue at that level indefinitely, then we would never return to the levels needed for us to get rid of ozone holes, even if the rest of the world stopped using CFCs altogether."

Destruction of the ozone layer raises the earth's temperature, a phenomenon called the "greenhouse effect."

Under an international agreement signed in Montreal in 1987, the use of CFCs is to be cut by 50 per cent by 1990. Many environmentalists are now pushing to have CFCs eliminated altogether by the end of the century.

"If we don't phase out all CFCs and some other chemicals, there is no way the ozone will be rectified and even with that it will only be rectified by 2070," said Mostafa Tolba, executive director of the UN Environment Programme.

Delegates said developing countries, for whom environmental issues were less important than basic economic concerns, were part of the problem.

China, for example, tackled emissions from buses by pointing exhaust pipes vertically rather than horizontally — a move which kept pollution down to a level half that of the rest of the atmosphere.

"The historical contribution of the developing world to the problem is trivial compared to that of the industrialised nations," Suzanne Mubarak, wife of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, told the conference.

## Jordan, Pakistan sign trade pact

ISLAMABAD, Dec 18, (Kuna): Jordan and Pakistan signed here today an agreement envisaging close co-operation in the fields of trade, civil defence and science and technology.

The agreement was signed on the conclusion of a two-day meeting of the Pakistani-Jordanian joint ministerial commission in which a five-member Jordanian delegation, led by secretary-general of the Planning Ministry Tofan.

Joint ventures in various commercial fields have also been included in the agreement.

Another agreement, calling for balanced trade between the two countries, was also concluded, stipulating expansion of items of two-way trade.

Yet another agreement provides for avoidance of double taxation between the corporate bodies of Pakistan and Jordan.

## French company denies oil strike

PARIS, Dec 18, (AP): France's Total-Compagnie Francaise des Petroles denied reports today that it had discovered good-quality oil in an exploration concession in South Yemen.

A short statement released from Total-CFP's headquarters in Paris said drilling has been under way at the 16,000-square-kilometre (6,000-square-mile) zone in the Hadramut region "without commercial discovery."

Reports from Aden, South Yemen's capital, over the weekend said such a discovery had been made and that exploratory work was continuing.

## KD deposit rates steady

KUWAIT, Dec 18, (Reuters): Kuwaiti dinar deposit rates were steady in subdued trade today as the market wound down for the end of the year.

Rates in all periods up to three months were unmoved at 8-1/2 1/4 per cent. Six months to one year were steady at 8-3/8 1/8.

Deals were reported in overnight at 8-3/8 and tomorrow-next at 8-1/4. The Central Bank adjusted its dinar exchange rate to 0.29409/19 to the dollar from 0.29393/9403 on Sunday.

## Opec Fund gives \$1.03b to 24 Asian countries

VIENNA, Dec 18, (Opecna): From its establishment in 1976 to August 1989, the Opec Fund for International Development extended loans worth about \$1.03 billion to 24 developing countries in Asia.

This amount consists of \$986.5 million in loans and 48.3 million in grants covering a large scope of activities, according to a new fund publication called "the Opec Fund in Asia."

Out of this amount, \$797.7 million or 77 per cent of the total commitments

have been disbursed, made up of \$43.53 million in project loans, 175.77 million in balance of payments support, 41.99 million in programme financing and 36.4 million in grants.

According to UN definitions, there are 13 least developed (LDC) and 12 most seriously affected (MSA) countries in Asia.

The publication observes that the bulk of the fund's assistance to the region has gone to countries included in these two groups and is valued at \$76.7 million or 78 per cent of total lending

commitments to the Asian region.

By August 1989, the fund had extended 97 project loans totalling \$762.2 million to Asia. Eighty-nine of them were to be financed in 18 countries, with about 56 per cent of the commitments or \$424.56 million in the energy sector, 15 per cent (\$116.68 million) in transportation, nine per cent (70.36 million) in agriculture and agro-industry, with the remainder distributed among industry (35 million), national development banks (21 million), education (27.61 million), health (34.5 million), water

supply and sewerage (29.28 million) and telecommunications (3.14 million).

The countries which have benefited from the project loans are: Bangladesh, India, Jordan, Laos, Maldives, Myanmar (formerly Burma), Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Syria, Thailand, Vietnam, Western Samoa, North Yemen and South Yemen.

A large number of projects have been co-financed with other development finance institutions. Co-financing agreements, the publication says, have

enabled the fund to respond "in good time" to the needs of the recipient countries and ensured the implementation of projects which, otherwise, would have been delayed.

In a forward to the report, Opec Fund director general Dr Seyyid Abdulai says that 42 per cent of the institution's commitments have been made to the Asia region and "we are now active in 21 of its countries."

He states: "Our resources have gone to financing basic infrastructure, agriculture and human resource

development, all of which are considered priority areas not only by the Opec Fund, but also by the countries in the region ... we intend to continue our efforts devoting as much as possible to the lesser developed and more seriously affected countries of the region."

He notes that the fund's mandate directs it to focus its attention more on the continent's much poorer countries whose larger populations suffer unending poverty, malnutrition, illiteracy and poor health, not to mention frequent natural calamities.

### Amoco signs oil exploration concession

## Cold weather sends crude prices soaring

LONDON, Dec 18, (Agencies). Bitter cold in North America sent world petroleum prices soaring today.

"It's pandemonium," said Peter Gignoux, a London-based director with trading house Shearson Lehman Hutton, as heating fuel suppliers rushed to cover themselves.

"They didn't build stocks of heating oil," Gignoux said. "There was a mild winter last year and people thought it would happen again."

Crude oil prices were pulled up by gains on heating fuel.

New York January futures for the US benchmark crude oil, West Texas Intermediate, shot up more than 50 cents in early business and were as high, trading around \$21.

Traders said US heating oil demand was leading the world petroleum market. Earlier this month prices were led by Western Europe where a cold snap also created a tight market in heating fuel.

Western oil company

executives say there is still plenty of crude oil available and that prices are high now because refineries did not process enough heating fuel before the cold weather struck.

But the industry sources said the market's performance today must, as one put it, be "miser in the ears" of the oil ministers of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec).

They had difficulties at talks last month in assigning new output quotas that 13 members of Opec would consent to abide by and they had to settle in the end for an accord that will probably mean Opec output at around 22.5 million barrels per day in the first months of 1990.

Reaction at the time was mixed. Some analysts cited forecasts that demand for Opec oil would probably be at least a million barrels per day in the first months of 1990.

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Amoco will also drill an experimental well if seismic survey yielded fruitful results, according to the terms disclosed

million barrels below that, and said prices might slump next year so that WTI could go as low as \$18.

Others felt that demand was being underestimated and said that Opec would be unlucky if prices took more than a modest, temporary dip early next year.

Meanwhile Amoco Corp has signed an oil exploration concession covering all of this southern Gulf emirate's offshore areas, officials said today.

The concession with the US company was signed a day earlier by Sheikh Khaled Bin Sagh Al Qassimi, Crown Prince and Deputy Premier of this coastal emirate at the tip of the Arabian peninsula.

According to the agreement, Amoco will conduct a comprehensive seismic survey of the emirate's waters close to the Strait of Hormuz starting as of May.

Amoco will also drill an experimental well if seismic survey yielded fruitful results, according to the terms disclosed

by the officials.

Ras Al Khaimah, which currently produces about 1,000 barrels a day of condensate, is the fourth largest of the seven emirates federated in the United Arab Emirates. Its new concession is seen in oil circles as an attempt to revive its oil production.

The offshore acreage was formerly held by Gulf oil, the US oil company subsequently taken over by Chevron Corp of the US, with peak output in 1984 of 5,000 barrels of condensate. Chevron relinquished the Saleh concession in 1987 when production started to fall. Exploration on land has yet to yield oil.

The UAE is a member of the international organisation, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, with a current quota of 1,095 million barrels per day. The major oil producer is the capital and leading emirate, Abu Dhabi, followed by Dubai. The two smaller oil producers are Sharjah and Ras Al Khaimah.

Hunt and his wife will be left with their home, two ageing cars and personal belongings, but he will have to find work to support their day-to-day expenses.

Hunt, 64, rarely speaks to reporters, but he told Reuters in a brief interview: "I don't believe I'll be doing any rebuilding. I'm too old."

"I'm virtually retired now," he said.

Hunt and his brother, William Herbert Hunt, once controlled a fortune valued at more than \$3 billion, inheriting much of it from famed oil wildcatter H.L. Hunt.

In 1979 and 1980 the Hunts tried to corner the world's silver market, only to see their empire disintegrate when the price of silver collapsed. For the past nine years the Hunts have faced dozens of lawsuits and court cases accusing them of racketeering, land fraud and tax evasion stemming from their failure in the silver market.

The banks have virtually withdrawn from the market and this week we will just see a few customer orders," said one London trader.

"Currency moves this week will be determined by chance more than anything else."

In Frankfurt, one dealer said: "The dollar is oversold versus the mark. We could see some big moves this week if that is a correction against the mark."

But he also said the overall trend was for a continued strengthening of the mark, given stable West German interest rates.

Gold bullion dropped to \$409.50 an ounce in London after finishing on Friday at \$412.

### Outstanding contributions

## Businessmen honoured

THE Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany, Claus Soenksen, in a small ceremony at his residence yesterday, presented three members of the German business community with the Federal Order of Merit for their outstanding contributions to the strengthening of Kuwaiti-German relations.

The honoured personalities were: Georg Dzierzon, general manager of Bebehani Motors, Franz Hintermaier, general manager of National German Engineering Electronic Company (NGGECO), a local joint venture of Siemens AG, and Horst Wenger, general manager of Al Rabiah Construction Co.

In a small address the ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany emphasised the role the three personalities have played over many years as distinguished representatives of the German business community in Kuwait for the benefit of the cultural as well as commercial ties between Kuwait and the Federal Republic of Germany.

for construction projects and services, such as cleaning and hotel work, even though demand has dropped sharply since the oil boom years of the 1970s and early 1980s.

But some had trousers torn at the knee and others wore only plastic sandals as they scrambled over boulders, carrying metal food jugs in their hands and tattered bags on their heads.

They pass through the Tassili National Park along trails also travelled by tourists who, to the amazement of the Africans, endure the same hardships just to look at prehistoric rock paintings.

Libya, a major oil producer with a small population, still requires foreign labour

for construction projects and services, such as cleaning and hotel work, even though demand has dropped sharply since the oil boom years of the 1970s and early 1980s.

One Nigerian youth, who asked not to be named, said he had travelled for 11 days by bus and lorry before reaching Djanet, via Kano in northern Nigeria, Agades in Niger and Tamanrasset in southern Algeria.

"There is no work in my country. So I must look elsewhere," he said.

Once in Ghat, he planned to take a bus for another 1,400 km (900 miles) to the Libyan city of Benghazi where he had previously worked for seven months.

## Call to boycott Air-India

NEW DELHI, Dec 18, (Kuna): Non-Resident Indians in Gulf countries today deplored the government's failure to bring down the Air-India fares on the Gulf-Kerala route at par with the airline's other routes.

K. Saratchandra Bose, president of the Gulf-Trivandrum air fare forum, said here today that "mostly poor people" travelled on the Gulf-Trivandrum route and their income was sliced by the "exorbitant fare" charged by Air-India.

Bose said that Non-Resident Indians were pressing the Dubai based forum to take drastic action including the boycott of Air-India to pressure the Indian government to remove the disparity.

He said 80 per cent of the passengers on the Gulf-Trivandrum sector were Non-Resident Indians, particularly the poor working class people, who had gone abroad to improve their economic conditions. They were also contributing substantially to the foreign exchange pool for India.

## WORLD STOCK ROUNDUP

SYDNEY, Dec 18, (Reuters): The share market finished strongly, boosted by hopes of easing interest rates and a fall in the local dollar. The All-Ordinaries index ended up 10.1 at 1,629.2.

TOKYO: A flurry of index-linked buying, mostly by arbitrageurs, lifted the Nikkei share index up 315.14 points to a record traded high of 315,581.

HONG KONG: Hong Kong stocks showed no sign of losing upward

momentum despite lower turnover as Christmas approaches. The Hang Seng ended 3.64 higher at 2,900.21.

BOMBAY: Share prices overcame a sluggish start and generally rallied on scattered buying by state-owned investment institutions.

The sensex index rose 12.70 points to 772.83.

LONDON: Prices remained firm held by a stronger Wall Street. At 1615 GMT the FTSE index was 16 points up at 2,361.0.

SHIPS DISCHARGING AT SHUAIBAH PORT AS ON 18/12/89		
B.No.	Ship Name	Agent
05	Jupiter	Al Barwil
06	Sham	ISA
14	Ibn Al Athar	KSA
19	Mistral	Aqaa
SHIPS EXPECTED AT SHUAIBAH PORT		
ETA	Ship Name	Agent
18/12	Jolly Smiler	Yan
18/12	Mercede	M. Bahar

## EEC says no to Turkish membership

BRUSSELS, Belgium, Dec 18, (AP): The European Economic Community's executive body, citing political and economic conditions, said today that Turkey should not be allowed to join the trading bloc in the near future.

"It is impossible to begin immediate (membership) negotiations," with Turkey, said Abel Matutes, the EEC's commissioner for Mediterranean policy.

He added that "the community will not be in a position to open membership negotiations before 1993 at the earliest."

But the commission recommended that co-operation between the 12-nation trade bloc and Turkey should be strengthened in the next few years to pave the way for eventual membership.

Ankara officially applied to join the community on April 14, 1987.

Under EEC rules, the commission must give its opinion on membership applications, but a final decision is up to the 12-member states' governments and the European parliament.

Armenia is the only other country that has made an official membership request.

Matutes said the commission reached its decision after an exhaustive survey of Turkey's economic and political situation.

He said the commission also looked at the effects of Turkish membership in the context of developments within the EEC, which is working to abolish its internal barriers to the free movement of trade, services, capital and people by the end of 1992 — the so-called single market.

## Currency devalued

WARSAW, Dec 18, (Reuter): Poland's Solidarity-led government, trying to stabilise the country's currency, devalued the zloty by 16.7 percent today — the 10th substantial devaluation since it took office in September.

The National Bank set a new rate at 6,000 zlotys to the dollar against 5,000 on Friday, according to figures published in the government newspaper *Rzecznik Pospolity*.

The government wants to close the gap between the official exchange rate and free market rate to stabilise the currency and introduce domestic convertibility of the zloty on January 1.

Parliament on Sunday started discussing an austerity reform package which includes new legislation on hard currency.

## Saudi riyal deposits steady

NICOSIA, Dec 18, (Reuter): Saudi riyal interbank deposits were generally steady in this trade today, with new fresh factors to give the market direction. Dealers said firmer oil prices in 1989 had helped dampen speculation against the riyal ahead of the kingdom's 1990 budget announcement due at the end of this month.

Steady dollar rates, often tracked by riyal deposits, was also a factor behind the quiet trade.

## Currency rates

KUWAIT, Dec 18, (Kuwait): Following are the average K.D. interest rates as quoted by local banks and announced by the Central Bank of Kuwait today:

	Buying	Selling
U.S. dollar	0.29354	0.29449
Sterling	0.46950	0.47440
Euro	0.29354	0.29449
S. Fr.	0.18950	0.19180
F. Fr.	0.04978	0.05030
Y. Fr.	0.000227	0.0002304
Jap. yen	0.002029	0.002035
Bah. din	0.0220	0.0230
S. dinar	0.07850	0.07950
S. rial	0.07875	0.07971
Q. rial	0.08065	0.08111
O. Rial	0.76270	0.76680

## Interest Rates

KUWAIT, Dec 18, (Kuwait): Following are the average K.D. interest rates as quoted by local banks and announced by the Central Bank of Kuwait today:

Period	Bid	Offered
1 month	8.5-10	8.9-16
3 months	8.5-10	8.9-16
6 months	8.3-10	8.7-16
1 year	8.1-8	8.3-8

## EXCHANGE RATES

Indian rupee	17.490
Sri Lankan rupee	7.450
Pakistani rupee	13.800
Bangladesh taka	9.060
U.S. dollar	29.900
Pound sterling	47.550
UAE dirham	0.8026
Deutsche mark	17.170
Japanese yen	0.02203

# World Bank planning to give more aid to E. Europe

## No plan to reduce the Third World aid

ARAB TIMES, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1989

World debt was released.

Earlier, President Barber W. Connable said the bank had \$350 million worth of loans prepared for projects in Poland and might lend as much as another \$1 billion in the coming year. Poland currently has no loans from the World Bank.

In the year that ended June 30, Hungary received \$345 million, Yugoslavia \$198 million and China \$1.348 billion.

The bank's loans for the year totalled \$21.3 billion.

"At the moment we are not constrained in our lending programmes," Fischer said.

"We're constrained more by the availability of countries which have actually undertaken adjustment

programmes and which would be eligible..."

Such programmes are now a requirement for major loans. They call for reduced government subsidies on food and other consumer products, slashed government payrolls and other austerity measures.

Poland's Solidarity-led government on Sunday asked its parliament to adopt austerity measures to combat 900 per cent annual inflation rate and open the economy to market forces.

The programmes was worked out with the International Monetary Fund, which has agreed in exchange to give Poland a \$700-million loan that would open the way to lending from the World Bank and possibly from private banks.

Fischer expressed concern that some Western European countries now giving large amounts of aid to Africa would divert some of it to East Europe.

"As far as the international agencies are concerned, as far as the World Bank is concerned, we don't see how lending to Eastern Europe is going to detract from our lending to Africa and Latin America," he said.

He said the World Bank already is working with Poland on its \$42-billion foreign debt. The first extension of its operations would be in technical assistance, he said, recalling that the bank has experience in helping more communist governments — including China — toward giving more weight to market forces.

The report predicted an increase in Third World debt in 1990 to \$1.319 trillion, up from this year's \$1.29 trillion.

It estimated that developing countries in 1990 will pay out \$51.6 billion in principal and interest beyond what they will be getting in new loans — close to \$19.5 billion.

Third World governments complain that this outflow leaves them little to put into schools, roads, farms and other public improvements. Until 1982, they received new loans that amounted to more than they had to pay out. Since then, the flow has gone the other way.

Asked to summarise the 1980s, Fischer noted that Latin America and Africa are being called the "lost

decade" because incomes in Latin America have not grown and in Africa they have declined. He said that debt underlies the problem, compounded by the rise of interest rates, recession in richer countries and the drop in prices for goods that Third World countries have to sell. But he said the present situation is also due in part to the failure of some debtor countries to adjust.

He saw encouragement in the new strategy put forward last March by US Treasury Secretary Nicolas F. Brady.

"The strategy, incorporating official support for debt and debt service reduction, is not without risks; but the risks and costs of continued inaction would have been higher," he said.

## ABC tries to strengthen Arab presence: Saudi

### Major policy switch

BAHRAIN, Dec 18, (Reuter):

The Arab Banking Corporation (ABC), the Arab world's biggest bank, plans to target Arab rather than international markets for growth in the 1990s

He said the commission also looked at the effects of Turkish membership in the context of developments within the EEC, which is working to abolish its internal barriers to the free movement of trade, services, capital and people by the end of 1992 — the so-called single market.

"Our strategy for the coming

few years, now that we have gained experience and recognition internationally, is to pass this information on here," he told Reuters in an interview.

"We want to strengthen our presence in the Arab countries and to penetrate local markets."

Saudi said ABC, which operates as an offshore banking unit from Bahrain, planned to develop an investment and commercial banking network in the Middle East by setting up new

companies or subsidiaries with domestic licences.

"We want to create a separate investment banking service here for our clients ... perhaps one could even look at ABC as a future Merrill Lynch," he said in a reference to the American investment banking giant.

Saudi said the bank was developing the in-house expertise of its investment banking arm, ABC Investment and Services Co (EC), and planned a major drive into private banking.

Negotiations to establish a presence in Jordan were in their final stages following ABC's purchase of a local investment company, he said.

ABC would take a majority stake in the new firm, which would be a joint venture with Jordan's housing bank. It would be able to operate as a commercial bank and was expected to open early in 1990.

"We are studying the different Arab markets to see where to be

able to locate ourselves and are starting with the ones who are inviting us to come, like Jordan," Saudi said.

"We are looking at Morocco now and may look later at Egypt and the Gulf," he said, ABC opened representative offices in Tunis and Tripoli this year.

During 1988, 17.2 per cent of the bank's earning assets were located in the Arab world, compared with 47.9 per cent in Europe, 17.1 per cent in Asia, 7.5 per cent in Latin America and 5.9 per cent in North America.

He said the money from the flotation, which would increase the bank's paid-in capital by 25 per cent to \$1 billion, would be used to finance expansion worldwide.

The new issue is expected to reduce the stakes of ABC's present shareholders, the Kuwaiti Finance Ministry, the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority.

Last September, ABC became the first Arab bank to receive an international credit rating for its paper.

Standard & Poor's International assigned the bank's long-term certificates of deposit and senior long-term Eurobonds a rating of single-a-minus, an investment grade rat-equal to that of many top US banks.

Saudi said ABC shares would

### FOMC to map monetary strategy

## Economists predict lower rates

WASHINGTON, Dec 18, (AP): A variety of busi-

ness and consumer interest rates should head down over the next six months as the Federal Reserve continues efforts to keep a sluggish economy from toppling into a recession, many economists predict.

These analysts were forecasting that the prime lending rate, to which one-third of all business and consumer loans are tied, and mortgage rates will decline after further credit easing on the part of the Central Bank.

That was the prevalent view as Federal Reserve policymakers gathered today for a meeting of the Federal Open Market Committee, the panel of FED board members and regional bank presidents who meet eight times a year to map monetary strategy.

While the meetings are held behind closed doors with the minutes of the sessions not released until six weeks later, many analysts were expecting a clear-cut signal of looser credit to emerge from the discussions, perhaps before the end of the week.

These economists believe the Central Bank will decide to reduce a key interest rate, the federal funds rate, by another 0.25 percentage point, dropping it

from 8.5 per cent to 8.25 per cent.

The federal funds rate is the rate banks charge each other on overnight loans. It is the primary lever the Central Bank uses to control short-term interest rates.

When the next easing move occurs, economists were predicting that banks will quickly follow suit by reducing their prime lending rates to 10 per cent, down from the current 10.5 per cent. Analysts said they expected at least one more cut in the prime lending rate to 9.5 per cent to occur before next summer, in response to further FED easing moves.

Analysts predicted that the credit easing would have a beneficial effect on mortgage rates as well.

David Wyss, an economist with Dri-McGraw Hill predicted that fixed-rate mortgages, currently at a national average of 9.75 per cent, will fall to around 9.25 per cent by next summer.

"Inflation has decelerated enough so that the Central Bank has a margin of comfort to ease interest rates to boost economic growth," said Allen Sinai, chief economist of the Boston Co. That assessment is far different from the view as 1989 began.

### Move to support value of franc

PARIS, Dec 18, (Reuter): Less than a week after deciding to dismantle its last remaining currency controls, France today moved to stave off a run on the franc by raising two key lending rates.

The Bank of France said its intervention and emergency funding rates would both rise by half a percentage point to 10 per cent and 10.75 per cent respectively, effective at today's government securities repurchase tender.

The Finance Ministry said the increase was aimed at supporting the value of the franc and keeping savings high enough to meet credit demand.

The persistence of domestic savings too low to meet continued demand is a strain in a slowdown.

Some economists last week predicted speculative pres-

sure on the franc after Finance Minister Pierre Bergévoys said France would free all capital movements on January 1.

Bergévoys said the move showed his government's commitment to European Monetary Union.

Complete freedom of capital movement is one of the pre-conditions laid down by European Commission president Jacques Delors for monetary union. But France had resisted lifting restrictions because of fears that money would flee abroad in search of more profitable investments.

For the first time since the end of the Second World War private French citizens will be allowed to hold foreign currency accounts in domestic banks and open bank accounts abroad.

### Hungarian reform is vital

## Budget aims to cut foreign debt

BUDAPEST, Dec 18, (Reuter): The Hungarian parliament met today to discuss a tough austerity budget amid warning that the country would go bankrupt and Prime Minister Miklos Nemeth would resign if legislators rejected it.

During the session, due to last three or four days, the 376-member parliament is also expected to dissolve after calling the country's first free elections in more than 40 years, likely to be held next March.

The budget is aimed at slashing Hungary's huge foreign debt and budget deficit, mainly by cutting subsidies and sharply increasing rents, a proposal that has met the most resistance.

Hungary's 10.6 million people shoulder total debt of around \$20 billion, giving the country

## Two new shoes for Ashra

By Julie Hodgson

THE birds were chirping gaily in the trees, as Ashra and her mummy went on their way to the souk.

Today, Ashra was going to have a new pair of shoes for school. Her old ones had holes in them. They passed many shops that sold many things. Ashra looked in all the different windows, to see what they sold. There was one that sold ice cream, that was Ashra's favourite shop, next door was a cake shop, with big cakes, small cakes with currents in them, birthday cakes, and lots of bread in different shapes and sizes.

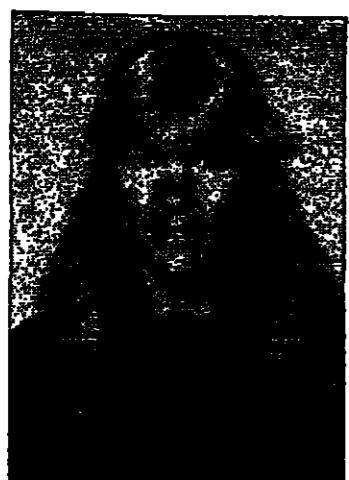
There was a toy shop, a food shop, and rows upon rows of gold shops. Ashra pressed her nose to the window to see all the shiny gold bracelets hanging from metal poles, there were earrings, just like her mummy was wearing, and necklaces with big heavy pendants on them.

As they neared the shoe shop, it started to rain, for the first time in many months, since the hot, dry summer. Ashra stood and looked up, the cool rain splashed on to her face, her mummy was not as eager as Ashra to get wet, so she pulled Ashra in to the shoe shop.

"Good morning Madame, may I help you?" asked the salesman.

"Yes please, my daughter needs new shoes," answered her mummy.

The sales man showed Ashra box after box of lovely shoes, some were blue, with polka dots, some were black and shiny. She could not choose, there were so many.



she wished she could have them all.

The man was very patient with her, he fetched scores of boxes down from the big shelves, she was about to give up when she saw a lovely red pair, shiny ones with a little rose on the out side of each shoe. Ashra thought these were the best she had seen so far, and asked her mummy if she could have them. Her mummy agreed, as she also liked them.

Ashra tried them on, they were too small, so the man got her a bigger pair, they were a perfect fit. Ashra walked around the shop to see how well she could walk in them. She felt like a princess in them, and could not wait to show her best friend Mactob at school.

Her mummy paid the man for the shoes, put the old pair in a plastic bag and set off home.

Ashra kept glancing down at the shoes, and was now glad that it had stopped raining as it would spoil her new red shoes.

## Amazing facts

Blackberries are used to make wine, hair-dye, cough medicine, and a refreshing drink.

Roman senators used to wear purple stripes in their togas as a mark of their rank.

Buckingham Palace contains 602 rooms.

In 1831 a boy of nine was hanged in England for arson.

A Hungarian wrote 32 lines of words on a single matchstick.

The mother of US President Ulysses S. Grant was often in Washington during her son's presidency, but never visited him at the White House.

A citizen of Calcutta, India, grew the fingernails on his left to a length of 76 inches.

The smallest independent country in the world is Vatican City — with a zero birth rate.

A Yorkshire woman succeeded in gaining her driving licence at her fortieth attempt.

## The science gang

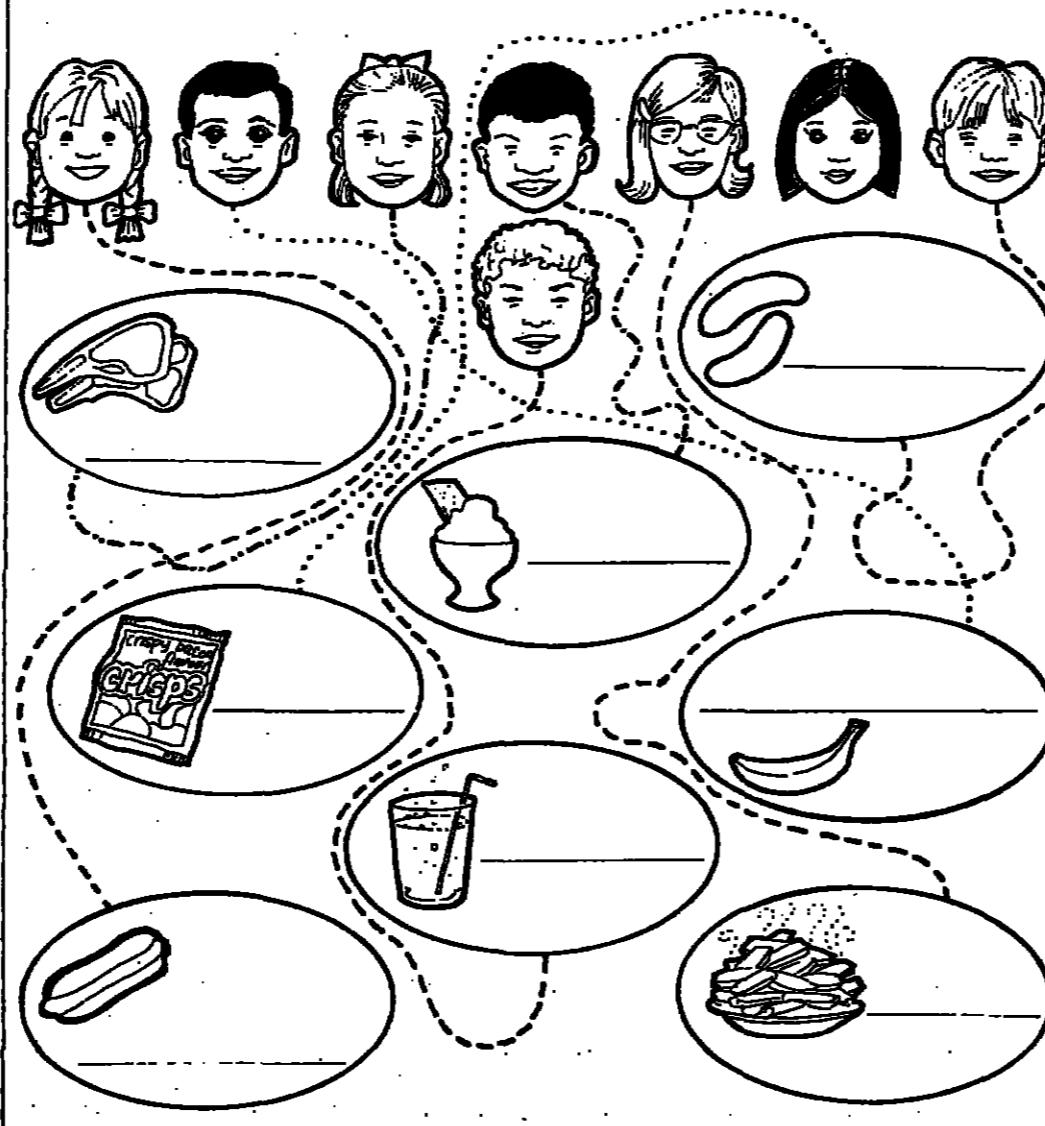


Mix and Max and their friends are the science gang. They love finding things out.

You can join in with their finding out games... in this book.

## Food and drink

What are they eating and drinking?  
Use a different colour for each child.  
Write the words.



## Dear Junior readers,

I'm sure you are all looking forward to your upcoming Christmas holidays. Holidays that start after hard work are really enjoyable. Have you decided how you are going to spend your time yet?

Before making thrash decisions about sleeping until noon and watching television until dawn, think carefully. Letting time pass is never as much fun as spending every moment doing something both enjoyable and worthwhile.

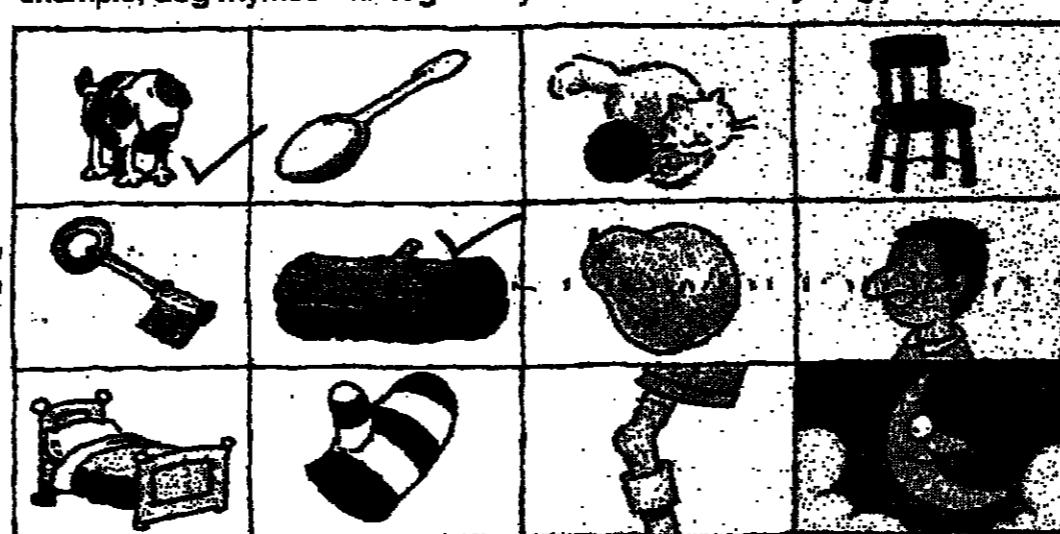
If you enjoy playing sports, you can start serious practice session with a friend. If you are more creative you can start on a project, maybe write a series of stories or draw pictures for a private and miniature exhibition; if you enjoy cooking you can dominate the kitchen and make lovely pies, cakes, puddings and soufflés.

Whatever you do, do it carefully and logically, this way you will ensure positive results.

Manal

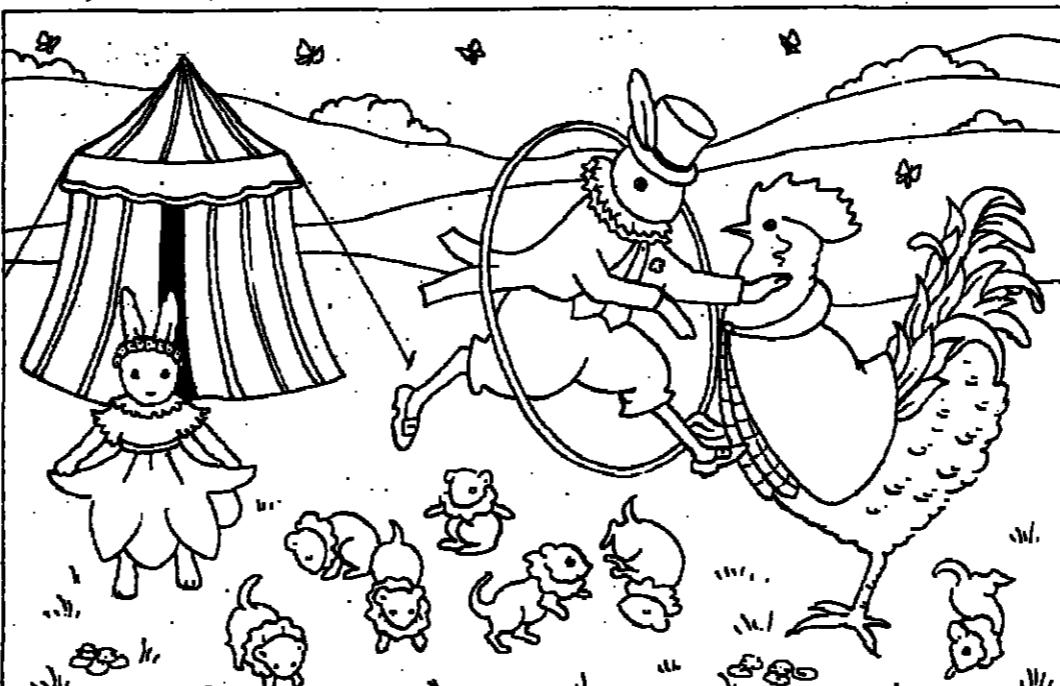
## Rhyme time

These twelve pictures can be divided into six pairs whose names rhyme. For example, dog rhymes with fog. Can you find the other rhyming pairs?



## Spot the difference

Spot the six differences in the bottom picture.



## Unknown women?

Jane Austen (below left) had four novels published during her lifetime all without her name being mentioned. In the 19th century, writing was not considered a woman's profession, and several famous women writers used men's names. Emily Bronte, author of Wuthering

Heights, called herself 'Ellis Bell', and her sister Charlotte (centre left), who wrote Jane Eyre, took the name 'Currer Bell'. 'George Eliot' (centre right) was really Mary Ann Evans, and the French novelist 'George Sand' (right) was really Amantine Lucile Aurore.



## 'Mummy'

This is something to remind you when I have grown so tall

That once I was quite small and my hands were very small.

Sometimes you get discouraged, because I am so small, and always leave my finger prints on furniture and wall.

But everyday I am growing and soon I'll be so tall That all those little finger prints will be precious to recall.



Shereen Mohiddin,  
(Age 4 years).

## Just for laughs!

'Doctor, doctor! I feel like a parrot.'

'Just perch there a moment.'

'Doctor, doctor! I feel like a strawberry!'

'You are in a jam, aren't you?'

'Doctor, doctor! I can't stop telling lies!'

'I don't believe you.'

Where do cows go on holiday?  
Moo York.

What does a ball do when it stops rolling?  
Looks round.

What dogs has no tail?  
A hotdog.

## Word search

### SCHOOL DAZE

ALPHABET	CLIP	GYM	NUMBERS	RECESS
ART	CRAYON	HISTORY	PAPER	SPELLING
BASICS	DESK	INK	PEN	STAIRS
BELL	DRILL	LESSON	PENCIL	STUDENT
BOOK	ENGLISH	LUNCH	PLAY	TEACHER
BUS	ERASER	MAP	PRINCIPAL	TEST
CHAIR	ESSAY	MATH	PRINT	THEME
CHALK	EXAM	MUSIC	PUPIL	WORD
CLASS	GRADE	NOTES	READ	WRITE

A	C	D	E	N	G	L	I	J	K	W	M
F	H	P	W	E	H	P	M	U	S	I	R
Q	A	R	P	A	P	E	R	X	D	K	R
M	L	G	U	C	L	E	X	A	L	T	N
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## Birthday coupon

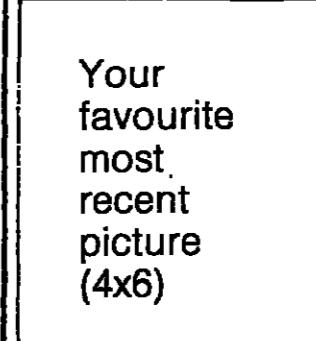
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## Happy birthday



Sheba Sarola turns 5 on Dec 20.



Samantha Almeida turns 9 on Dec 19.



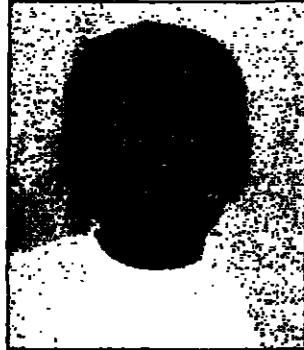
Reynol Pinto turns 6 on Dec 19.



Mehinish Ilyas turned 7 on Dec 14.



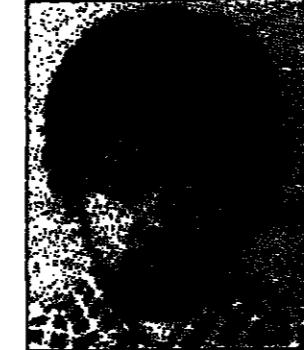
Fiona on Dec 13.



Nusrat Shaikh turned 9 on Dec 14.



Melvin Paul on Dec 15.



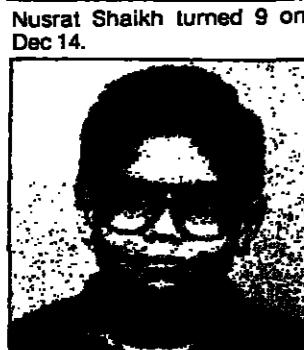
Darin Philip turned 5 on Dec 10.



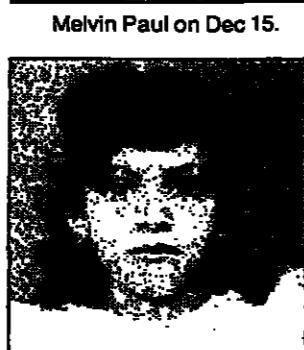
Roshan John on Dec 20.



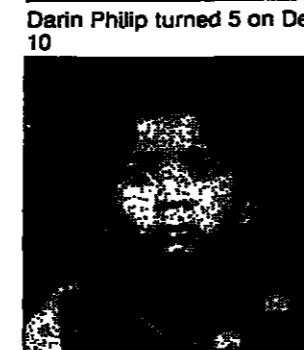
Saad Bovals turns 9 on Dec 20.



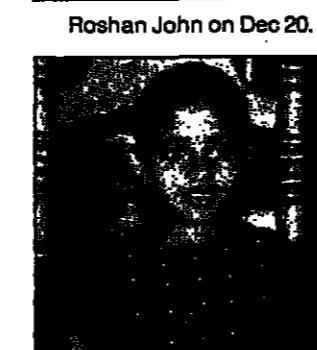
Kendrick Cordeiro turns 7 on Dec 20.



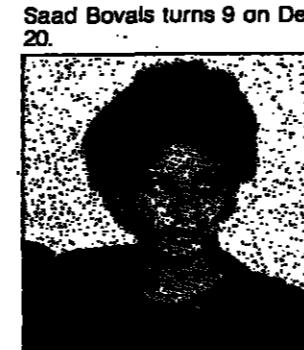
Nafisa Patwa turned 8 on Dec 17.



Neil D'Souza turns 2 on Dec 19.



Rifat Deena turned 10 on Dec 16.



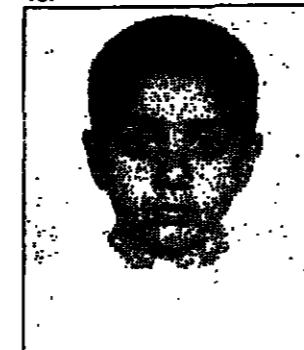
Persis Daver turned 13 on Dec 16.



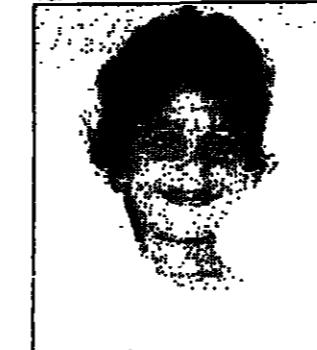
Abdul Hamid turned 14 on Dec 15.



Stelancia D'Souza turned 3 recently.



Tanveer Zia turned 5 on December 10.



Alefya Oanali turns 6 on December 19.



Rohan V. Balwani on December 19.

## Variety

## For Haider, acting is the soul

It will be a hard trek back home

By Fathima Ahmed  
Arab Times staff

ACTING and eye surgery may not be ideal bed partners but Bangladeshi ophthalmologist Rashid Haider has carved a niche for himself in both careers.

If eye surgery is his vocation, acting is his soul.

Reclining in the dimly lit room of his apartment in Salwa, he talks ruefully about the moment he almost became an actor.

After winning an acting competition, he was offered the lead on a television series. "If I had stayed back, I may have become an actor," he recalls.

He did not, pursuing another dream: the chance to study in the UK. Most Asians see a "foreign degree" as a passport to a better future.

He left East Pakistan in 1968 and returned to Bangladesh five years later. His destiny, in some ways, was shaped by the changing destiny of his country.

His work took him to the UK, Libya, Malta and Kuwait. "When I left the country, I had only one aim: to come back with additional qualification, set up a practice and lead a normal life in my country, but everything changed," he recalls.

The 1971 war put a damper on his spirits. He lost contact with his family for almost a year and had feared the worst. Eventually, when he did manage to make contact, he was told to stay away.

Things had changed. "Everything was destroyed; our house was looted and I didn't have the money to support myself," he said.

He took refuge in the UK and worked for a prominent hospital as a registrar for nine years. He did not take a British passport. "What for? I love my country, I want to go back."

That elusive dream has been haunting him ever since. His story is the theme of many an expatriate who want to return but cannot due to pressures at home. When he did go back, he was hit by the hard reality of petty-thinking back home.

He was offered a consultant's job at one of the leading eye private hospital in Dhaka.

"I held the same status, but other doctors resented my knowledge and created hurdles



Haider the ophthalmologist.



Haider the actor with his wife in Chak Bhanga Madhu.

## Meet a Neighbour

in my work," he recalls. He quit the job and went back to the UK, as he puts it, to make a decent living.

More than four per cent of the population in Bangladesh is blind, with the number of those losing sight increasing at a high rate. Negligence is the main factor, says Haider, who is now working on a handy manual on how to care of eyes.

"Blindness is due to negligence: most villagers are ignorant and there is a lack of ophthalmological care in the remote areas," he explains.

Haider says if a foreign body in the eye is not removed immediately, it can lodge on the retina, which in nearly all cases, leads to blindness.

"When a farmer is reaping the harvest, invariably something falls into the eyes, which starts watering. He shuts his eyes for two days, and on the third day, he goes about to his work. His negligence leads to an infection, and in one out of five cases, it is inoperable."

His manual, titled "How to treat your eye" deals with the simple do-it-yourself remedies and eyecare. He hopes to publish

the book in his native Bengali language.

Haider, who was born in a village near Calcutta, was the product of the turmoil of partition. At an early age, he lost his mother and when he was 12, he lost his father as well. He has faint memories of his childhood, which he spent in India, but remembers the warmth and companionship he received from his family.

"Nowadays, all families are growing apart; take my children, they'd rather spend time watching than talking to me," he says, pointing to his three daughters, who were glued to the TV set.

"If there were no television, they would be here with me, talking to me," he said.

A doctor with a penchant for aesthetics, he encourages his children to learn dancing and music. "I don't want them to become professionals, but knowledge of music comes in handy," he explains.

He was himself encouraged to take part in dramatics from an early age. When he was in school, he participated in all the poetry contests and took part in cultural shows. As he grew up, he shifted

to the theatre, performing in several plays.

"I am not cut out for comedy; I like serious roles," he insists. During his stay overseas, he had almost, but given up acting. Kuwait's measured pace of life revived what he now terms as his hobby.

He was one of the founder members of a group of professionals who took to dramatics in Kuwait, forming an amateur group four years ago, and staged a social, a musical and a comic play.

Oppression was the theme of the social drama called "Chak Bhanga Madhu," the story of farmers who are oppressed by the landlord. In the play, Haider played his wife's father. This was followed by a musical entitled Ritu Ranga, appreciated by many Bangladeshis for its music and presentation.

The comic play, revolving around a haunted house, raised many a laugh.

Haider, along with his group staged an ambitious production called Nakshi Kantha Math (The Field of the Embroidered Quilt), a tragedy set in the villages of Bangladesh.

A musical, with 15 singers and 15 dancers, elaborate sets and background music, it enthralled the audience.

"We wanted to break the barrier of language with his production," he says. It did.

Haider has begun plans to go back home and recently opened a clinic with five other doctors in Dhaka.

"This is the first step; now I have to wait until my daughters finish school to go back," he says. This will take a couple of years longer.

It will be a hard trek back home.

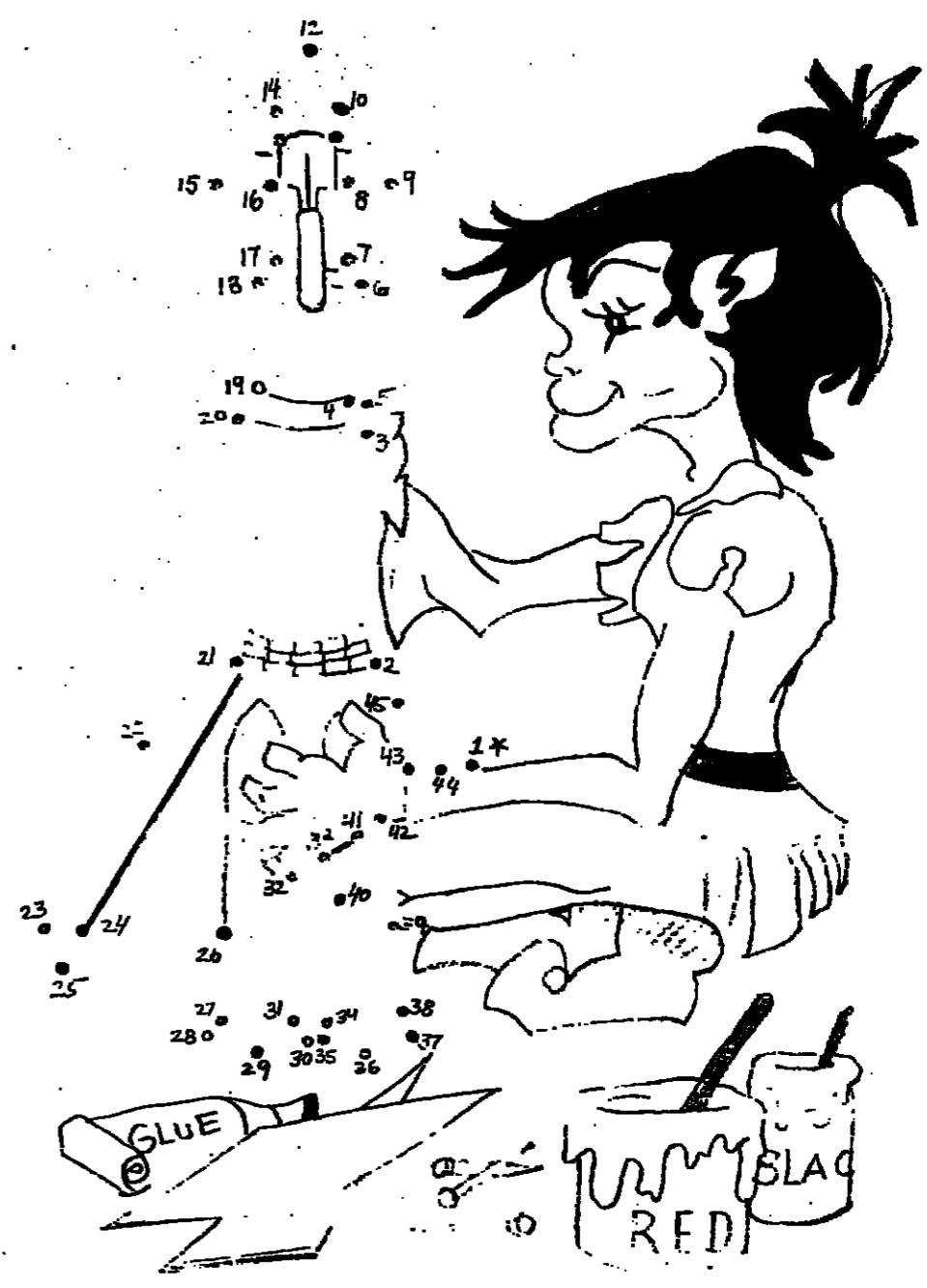
"I feel uprooted; when I return home I find myself a stranger in my own country; I have no friends and have lost touch with my childhood pals," he says.

But he is confident of resetting. "It will take time and we'll make new friends and settle down. My country is my home," he says.

Making friends, and going back to routine, would be not difficult for the soft-spoken doctor. He has done it many times in Libya, a memory he would rather forget and in Kuwait, a memory he will cherish.

## Young Artist

## Join the dots



A present from Mubashir that's "Out of this World!"

## Year-long arts extravaganza in Glasgow

## Culture queen of Europe

GLASGOW, Scotland, (Reuters): Scotland's biggest city, which a few years ago evoked images of slums, poverty and violence, now stands improbably and excitedly on the brink of becoming cultural capital of Europe for 1990.

At the stroke of the new year — Hogmanay in Scotland — Glasgow will erupt in a mammoth fireworks and laser display to launch a year-long arts and sports extravaganza.

Glasgow beat eight other British cities for the title, devised in 1984 by European Economic Community culture ministers and held previously by Athens, Florence, Amsterdam, West Berlin and Paris.

"What we are set to celebrate is the culture of our city and region, its individuality, its vigour... not just the culture to be seen in a gallery or bought with a theatre ticket, but what's around us in the streets and buildings...," proclaims the brochure produced by Glasgow authorities.

Performers include Moscow's Bolshoi opera, Britain's National Theatre and Royal Shakespeare Company, and operatic superstars Luciano Pavarotti and Jessye Norman.

There will be exhibitions of Van Gogh, Picasso and Degas. A new 2,500-seat concert hall will be opened. Many events will involve community groups from Glasgow's population of 715,000.

Sports highlights include the European Indoor Athletics Championships and the world highland games.

It is a big event for a town which a decade ago was physically and spiritually derelict, tied to the image of violence and religious bigotry amid dilapidated tenements portrayed in the best-selling novel "No Mean City" written in 1935 by Glaswegian Alexander MacArthur and H. Kingsley Long.

The powerhouse on the River Clyde had seen its pre-eminence in world shipbuilding end and its traditional heavy industry decline. Factories closed, unemployment soared, morale crashed.

Introducing the Glasgow Herald "Book of Glasgow," the paper's editor, Arnold Kemp, writes of his arrival in 1981: "I arrived in a demolished, down-at-heel town that seemed to be perched on the edge of the civilised world with every chance of falling into the abyss."

"On every hand were reminders of lost grandeur or an evaporated sense of community."

The 1980s have been a transformation. Kemp describes Glasgow today as "a proud and perky city with ambition."

Local councils, given continuity by the Labour Party holding power for years, have poured money into regeneration.

New service and manufacturing industry has been brought to Glasgow. Clydebank Enterprise Zone, occupying land once devoted to building great ships, houses more than 300 companies.

Some central government departments have been wooed to Glasgow. Office and hotel building is racing ahead.

Much prosperity has returned. Unem-

ployment is falling, though at 17 per cent it is still almost twice the national average.

The city centre has been rejuvenated, pedestrian precincts created, tenements restored and many magnificent 19th century buildings cleaned and refurbished.

The star is the massive city chambers, a breathtaking testament to Victorian extravagance with its clusters of turrets and domes and, they say here, more marble than the Vatican.

The arts, too, have thrived. Glasgow boasts 17 museums, 25 art galleries and nine theatres and the city council spends £20 million (about \$30 million) a year on the arts.

Perhaps the greatest single coup was the opening in 1983 of the Burrell collection, a world-renowned display of arts through the ages collected by William Burrell, a Glasgow shipowner.

The Glasgow 1990 festival will cost some £50 million (\$75 million) to stage, the money coming mainly from the city and regional councils, backed by commercial sponsors.

The organisers hope 10 million visitors may visit the city during the year and stress the festival should have an economic, social and cultural impact beyond 1990.

Jim Waugh, a spokesman for the festivals office, emphasised the role to be played by community arts groups alongside the international stars.

A "people's choir," being created to perform at the hogmanay launch party, is hoped to be 10,000 strong by later in 1990.

Cerebral artists are working with mentally handicapped people to create an exhibition. Children attending a dental clinic are painting a giant mural.

"We want real participation to get the best possible statement from the communities of what they can do," said Waugh.

He conceded there were critics who disproved of Glasgow 1990.

"They see it as a sort of cultural colonisation, an imposition."

"But there is great achievement in bringing all this to one city in one year. If anyone thinks it is not a good idea, their thinking is questionable," Waugh said.

Despite increased prosperity and urban renewal, the feeling remains that parts of Glasgow will not be touched by the spirit of 1990.

The bleak housing estates thrown unplanned around the city to meet a desperate post-war housing shortage, are still nests of poverty, unemployment, violence and drug abuse.

The idea of Glasgow, cultural capital of Europe, may ring false in Easterhouse, population 44,000, without even a cinema.

But there is enthusiasm for 1990 at most levels.

"It's really quite exciting," said a taxi driver. "We seem to have been stuck with this 'No Mean City' image for ever. But this is a generous place and, if the 1990 festival brings people to Glasgow, the people of Glasgow will win them over and they'll want to come back."

CPT 1989



## SPORTS

## Rizzo and Hill take golf title

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico, Dec 18. (Reuters): Patti Rizzo and Mike Hill teamed for a final-round 66 to split the \$500,000 first-place prize in the Champions Team Golf Tournament by one stroke yesterday.

They teamed up for a 25-under-par total 191 ahead of Tammy Green and Don Bies and Sherri Turner and Charles Coody.

Hill made all the birdies for his team on the final day.

"Mike was just hitting it close to the pin all day," Rizzo said. "I had a few chances on some holes but Mike always seemed to roll it in first."

"I felt that we had to shoot a 64 or 65 today to have a good chance to win," Hill said.

"I also felt that the wind today was probably in our favour because it wasn't going to make things any easier for the rest of the field."

Beth Daniel and Orville Moody finished in fourth place at 193 while two teams tied for fifth at 194 — Jane Geddes and Gene Little and Pat Bradley and Dave Hill.

## Japan series

TOKYO, Dec 18. (UPI): World champion Jan-Ove Waldner of Sweden and Seoul Olympic gold medallist Yoo Nam Kyu of South Korea will lead a field of 11 players to compete in the five-game Japan series of the World All-star Table Tennis Circuit opening Jan 24, the Japan Table Tennis Association reported yesterday.

The series, sponsored by the International Table Tennis Federation, will open in Yonago, Japan on the Japan Sea coast of northern Japan and tour around the country.

## Top athlete

PARIS, Dec 18. (UPI): American cyclist Greg Lemond, comeback winner of the Tour de France and the World Road Cycling Championship this year, has been named 1989 Athlete of the Year by the news agency Agence France Presse.

STUTTGART, West Germany, Dec 18. (AP): In an individualistic sport like tennis, Davis Cup competition often does strange tricks on a player's body and mind.

Stars can be afflicted by strange mental freezes and turn into tin men with knees of jelly and nerves as taut as overextended rubber bands when playing for their country.

Not Boris Becker.

Showing nerves of steel, the West German blitzed Stefan Edberg and Mats Wilander in singles and starred in the doubles as the defending champions retained the Davis Cup with a 3-2 win over Sweden.

"I don't think there could be more pressure than it has been in the last three days," said Becker after playing the best tennis match of his career yesterday.

He could feel the pressure when practising during the week-long training camp, but "from the last four days I put myself out of everything and just kept concentrating on each match."

Becker said: "That's how I could put it away."

The Wimbledon and US Open champion played perfect tennis in a 6-2, 6-0, 6-2 win over Wilander that clinched West Germany's triumph in the best-of-five match series.

"I'm still in a state of shock," Becker said, shaking his head. "It was my best match ever. I was playing for almost two hours and I could not miss the ball."

"The score was 2-1 for Germany so it was a very important match. It's difficult to believe for me that I played like that."

A year ago, Becker led West Germany to a 4-1 win over Sweden on indoor clay at Goteborg, Sweden, for one of the biggest upsets in the 88-year history of the Davis Cup.

"Last year was a dream, because nobody expected us at all to win," said Becker. "This year the chances were 50-50. I knew that if I'm going to do the best I can then we can win it. The feeling now is much stronger for me personally than last year."

But was it stronger than after winning a Grand Slam?

"It's difficult to explain exactly."



The West German Team (from left): Patrik Kuehnen, Becker, Jelen, Steeb and Pilic. (Reuter wirephoto)



Pilic (right) shows his delight to Becker after he won his match. (Reuter wirephoto)

West Germany's victory was the first back-to-back, since Sweden won in 1984-85, beating the United States and West Germany.

It was probably not the last, although the Germans could face Argentina away on clay in the second round next year.

"Clay is different," admitted Becker, who grew up on the slow stuff but still has not won a major tournament on clay.

"But overall we have improved quite a lot already this year," added Becker. "All players on the team have improved their rankings from last year."

Becker's next target is Australian Open in Melbourne next month. A win there would move him from No. 2 past Ivan Lendl atop the rankings.

"I've played terrible in Melbourne in the last few years," said Becker. "I just hope I can win a couple of more matches next month."

"The only thing I can do is to go there and give it my best shot and hope for the best. That's what I'm going to do again next year."

In the doubles, Becker and Eric Jelen needed five sets to beat Anders Jarryd and Jan Gunnarsson.

Becker simply made morgabord of his Swedish opponents, losing only 12 games in six sets on a fast indoor carpet.

Becker was awesome in his two

singles against Wilander, a three-time Grand Slam winner last year and ranked No. 1 at the end of 1989 but now No. 12, and against Edberg, the world No. 3 who had beaten him in the Masters final early month.

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"It's almost unthinkable," said German captain Niki Pilic, who played Davis Cup for 20 years for Yugoslavia. "I never saw anybody who played that kind of tennis for three days in such an important tie."

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## Portland outplay Indiana

PORLAND, Oregon, Dec 18. (AP) Clyde Drexler scored 26 points and Jerome Kersey 20 to lead the Portland Trail Blazers to a 121-113 victory over Indiana last night despite 33 points by the Pacers' Chuck Person.

Portland led 62-50 at halftime but Person, who scored 18 points in the third period and 12 in the fourth, sparked a rally that got Indiana as close as 74-70. The Blazers then went on a 19-7 run for a 95-77 lead.

Jazz 122, Timberwolves 112 Utah made 51 of 58 free throws, including 15 of 16 by John Stockton and 20 of 24 by Karl Malone. Stockton's six points sparked a 12-0 run late in the fourth quarter. Minnesota was 40 of 49 from the foul line.

Stockton made his 12th straight free throw with 4:20 to go, giving Utah a 104-99 lead. Malone, who scored 34 points, made a driving shot with 58 seconds left to make it 115-109. Minnesota's Tony Campbell scored 34 points.

Rockets 109, Magic 94

Houston's Akeem Olajuwon had his second triple-double of the season with 32 points, a career-high 25 rebounds and 10 blocked shots. Olajuwon surpassed 20 rebounds for the fourth time this season. He had 25 three previous times in his career.

Houston used a 17-5 spurt, including six points, four rebounds and two blocks by Olajuwon, to take a 97-85 lead with 3:49 left to play. Orlando's Reggie Theus scored 29 points and made nine straight shots at one stretch.

Results  
Utah Jazz 122 Minnesota 112  
Portland 121 Indiana 113  
Houston 109 Orlando 94  
Phoenix 123 Sacramento 113

### Standings

Atlantic Conference				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
New York	14	7	.667	
Boston	12	10	.545	2-1/2
Philadelphia	11	10	.524	3
Washington	11	11	.500	3-1/2
Miami	7	17	.292	8-1/2
New Jersey	6	15	.286	8

Central Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Chicago	14	7	.667	
Indiana	13	7	.650	1/2
Atlanta	12	8	.563	
Detroit	10	10	.500	2
Cleveland	10	11	.476	
Milwaukee	10	12	.455	4-1/2
Orlando	8	15	.348	7

Western Conference				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Utah	15	6	.714	
San Antonio	14	6	.700	-1/2
Denver	14	9	.609	1/2
Dallas	10	11	.476	
Houston	11	11	.476	
Minnesota	9	17	.227	10-1/2
Charlotte	3	18	.143	12

Pacific Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
LA Lakers	18	5	.783	
Portland Trail	17	7	.708	-1-1/2
Seattle	11	10	.524	6-1/2
Phoenix	9	12	.473	7
LA Clippers	8	12	.400	8-1/2
Golden State	8	14	.344	9-1/2
Sacramento	6	14	.300	10-1/2

## Gardner ready for action

THE Rothmans Honda Grand Prix team will contest both the 500cc and 250cc World Championships in 1990. Australian Wayne Gardner and Michael Doohan ride the NSR Rothmans Honda machines in the 500cc class, while popular Frenchman, Dominique Sarron, returns to the 250cc class.

Last season Eddie Lawson won the 500cc Championship for the team following in the World Championship success of Freddie Spencer, Wayne Gardner and Toni Mang in the Rothmans Honda colours. Last season, the 1987 World 500cc champion, Wayne Gardner, broke his left leg at the third Grand Prix of the season in America. Although he returned later in the year, his season was wrecked. After months of recuperation he can't wait for the new season to start.

"I've been working flat out to get the leg 100% fit," said Gardner, who married fiancée Donna in Australia last week. "I'm sure I will be fit, both mentally and physically, by the time we reach that opening Grand Prix of the season in Japan."

His team-mate in the 500cc class, Michael Doohan, also struggled with injuries in his debut season in the 500cc class. Despite missing some races he still impressed many experts with both his skill and bravery. Great things are expected of Doohan in 1990.

"I learnt a great deal in 1989 which will help me next year," revealed the

### Wayne Gardner

24-year-old Australian. "If I can stay free of injuries I'm sure I will have a good year."

Last season Dominique Sarron rode in the 500cc World Championship, riding for the French Elf Honda team. Previously he has been very successful in the 250cc World Championship, riding for Rothmans Honda, finishing third and fourth in consecutive years.

"I'm delighted to be both back in the 250cc class and with the Rothmans Honda team," said the 30-year-old French star. "It should be a very close championship and I'm determined to go out and win it."

tegrated, in what was to become the first in a series of problems for Haines throughout the day. Lloyd, Haines' home third with Bolling (Haliburton) fourth and Snell fifth. Heat three was almost an identical replay of heat two with Snell moving up one place into fourth.

Heat four started without Haines, who pulled out on the rolling lap after another rear axle problem. Lloyd took up the lead at the first corner and held his position to the flag without being challenged beyond the second lap when Frieseneger, holding second place, retired with engine problems. Snell took up the second place challenge but couldn't reach the comfortably placed Lloyd. Bolling, who performed consistently throughout the day carried a deserved third place with Wakeley and Gardner fourth and fifth.

The men's KNDC final saw Haines, who had stayed clear of the day's problems, on anti-pole and the menacing Frieseneger on third spot with Snell alongside. Haines took an early lead with Lloyd and Frieseneger in pursuit. After five laps Frieseneger passed Lloyd on the straight and set off after Haines.

After an exciting men's final seven ladies took to the track for the ladies race. Bernadette Frieseneger pulled to the front with Sandra Gardner, in her dad's kart, second and Norma Haines third. Sandra Gardner eventually lost control of the brake pedal with two or three spins during the race. Bernadette Frieseneger just kept the pace up and never lost control of her kart. Christine Sheehan, who together with Sandra Haines tried karting for the first time, gradually increased the pace of their driving as their confidence grew. It was an exciting race and full credit should be given to all seven ladies who participated in the race keeping the men busy restarting spun karts for an entertaining eight laps.

The day finished with the presentation of cups by Imad Mahdi Habib to the top three men and lady drivers.

The next meeting is the turkey trot (to be sponsored by Pirelli Construction Company) which shall be a points handicap race on the December 22, 1989.

Peter Frieseneger after his victory.

Peter Fries

## SPORTS BRIEFS

## Everton manager

LONDON, Dec 18. (Reuter): Colin Harvey, manager of English First Division soccer side Everton, will face a charge on January 8 of bringing the game into disrepute. The Football Association brought the charge after Harvey went on to the pitch and argued with his referee at the end of Everton's League Cup defeat by Nottingham Forest last month.

## British soccer

LONDON, Dec 18. (Reuter): Results of British soccer matches yesterday.

English Division One  
Everton 0 Man. City 0  
Notts Forest 2 Southampton 0  
Division Two  
West Brom. 1 Swindon 2  
English Division Three  
Brentford 2 Mansfield 1  
Northampton 2 Reading 1  
Division Four  
Cambridge 3 Peterborough 2  
Carlisle 3 Stockport 1

## Shield cricket

SYDNEY, Dec 18. (Reuter): Scores on the fourth and final day of Sheffield Shield cricket matches today: In Albany: New South Wales 307 and 226 for five declared; Mark Waugh 100 not out, Trevor Bayliss 56, Victoria 260 and 161 for eight (Wayne Phillips 78 not out); Greg Matthews 40 for 13). Match drawn. In Perth: Western Australia 365 for three declared. Scores: Western Australia 116, Nobes 124, Mark Bovis 114) and 207 for four (Andrew Hilditch 65 not out, Paul Nobes 59). Match drawn.

## Dutch squad

BRUSSELS, Dec 18. (Reuter): Dutch midfielder Frans van Rooy will miss the World Cup soccer tournament because of surgery on an injured groin. Van Rooy, who plays for Belgian side Antwerp, said on today he would undergo surgery tomorrow and hoped to be fit again in eight weeks.

## BRIDGE

RESULTS of the Messilah Ladies Bridge Club game held on Saturday, Dec 9:  
1. Ited Malas & Rima Elkasm  
2. Rabab Abboushi & Rima Ayad  
3. Nahil & Lollo Murtahwe  
Results of the Messilah Ladies Bridge Club game held on Dec 11:  
1. Nahil Akel & Lollo Murtahwe  
2. Rabab Abboushi & Sheila Dagher  
3. Ited Malas & Rima El Kasm  
Results of the Regency Bridge Club game held on Dec 10:  
1. Hakam Albuli & Temel Koksel  
2. Stern Basymou & Ahmed Hneidi  
3. Rita Giacosa & Alain Moussali  
Results of the Regency Bridge Club game held on Dec 17:  
1. Nahil Akel & Narendra Shah  
2. Amer Abedin & Mohammed El Baz  
3. Mamoud Sabri & Adel Sadek  
Results of the Regency Bridge Club held on Dec 5:  
1. Eliane Kerela & Greta Shakhtoura  
2. Rima Ayyad & Ghofran Mikail  
3. Dona Materny & Clara Bastiere.

## Australians slam Sri Lankans

## Taylor hits century

HOBART, Australia, Dec 18. (Reuter): Opener Mark Taylor sustained his prolific form by hitting his second century in consecutive cricket Tests today to put Australia in a commanding position against Sri Lanka.

Australia made the most of a docile pitch and Sri Lanka's increasingly dispirited attack to score 362 on the third day of the second Test, extending their second innings to 387 for five at the close — 395 ahead.

Taylor's 387-minute innings completed a remarkable 1989 for the left-hander who took his run tally for his debut year in Test cricket past 1,200 with his fourth century in 11 Tests. He scored 164 in the drawn first Test against Sri Lanka.

Taylor put on 163 for the fourth wicket with captain Allan Border before becoming the victim of Asanka Gurusinha's second remarkable catch of the day.

Border, who has gone 25 Test innings without a century, fell just short once again, playing on to spinner Aravinda de Silva at the close and Jones, who passed 1,000 Test runs for the year, 51.



Mark Taylor

Dean Jones rode his luck while Steve Waugh dominated their thrilling, unbroken sixth wicket partnership of 134. Waugh was 77 not out off only 78 deliveries at the close and Jones, who passed 1,000 Test runs for the year, 51.

Resuming at 25 for two, Taylor and nightwatchman Merv Hughes faced few problems on a pitch which had served the bowlers well during the first two days when 22 wickets fell.

They had added 52 to the overnight score when Hughes pulled a poor delivery from pace bowler Ramesh Ratnayake and the ball flew off the meat of the bat straight to Gurusinha's lay on the ground for several seconds apparently realising he could have been seriously injured but for his quick reflexes.

Those reflexes came to the fore again immediately after tea to end the stand between Border and Taylor, who completed 150 of their partnership in 169 minutes.

Taylor, who reached three figures off 188 balls, swept Aravinda de Silva and Gurusinha took off to his right at a flying square to grab a flying catch with both hands.

Australia were then 240 for four, and 13 runs later another sweep off De Silva brought the downfall of Border, the captain

dragging the ball on to his stump.

De Silva finished with two for 65 and Ratnayake, who took six for 66 in the first innings, two for 93. But generally Sri Lanka's attack was disappointing and included 21 no balls.

## Scoreboard

AUSTRALIA first innings 224 (P. Sleip 47 not out; Ramesh Ratnayake 66; M. Hughes 105, Aravinda de Silva 75). Australia second innings (overnight 25 for 6)  
M. Taylor c Guru Singh b Aravinda de Silva 108  
D. Boon c Ratnayake b Labrooy 0  
T. Moody c Tilkeratne b Ratnayake 0  
M. Hughes c Gurusinha b Ratnayake 30  
A. Border b Aravinda de Silva 85  
D. Jones not out 51  
S. Waugh not out 77  
Extras (b-1 lb-4 w-4 nb-21) 31  
Total (five wickets) 387  
Fall of wickets: 1-1 2-103 7-74 240 5-253  
Bowling (to date): Labrooy 17-2-70-1 (2NB), Ratnayake 29-4-93-2 (4WB), Asoka de Silva 12-0-52-0 (1NB), Aravinda de Silva 15-1-65-2 (4NB), Ramanayake 6-0-37-0 (4NB).



Evangelista (right) and Lynne.

## Lynne, Evangelista PBAK champions

MAR EVANGELISTA and Lynne Reyes won the 1st PBAK Annual Bowling Championship, held recently at the Holiday Inn Hotel's Bowling Centre. Sponsored by Al Rashed Freight, and supervised by Arthur Reyes, the tournament became the display events for the top bowlers, PBAK has produced in 1989.

From among a selected cream of the crop, 5 excellent bowlers in both the men's and ladies' divisions qualified to play in the step-leader.

The first encounter in the men's section was between Munib Hamdan and Anukul Sae Tang. Munib showed a lackluster game having 3 missed throws in the early part of the match. However, Anukul produced a double pinocle on the 5th frame, followed by another double misses, thereby giving Munib a chance to recover with a strike on the 6th frame followed by succeeding easy spares. It was a close fight when Anukul made a strike on the 9th frame while Munib converted the 7-9 pins to spare, however, Anukul easily won the match when he spared in the last frame against Munib's split shot with the final scores of 160 - 145 in favour of the more seasoned Anukul who then had the chance to contend with Rico Pino.

Anukul's game was riddled with nasty splits and he was simply out of form against the determined Rico who edged his opponent from the first to the last frames with 7 strikes to boast of, resulting to 190 - 168 score win for the PBAK proxy.

Rico then tackled the Banana King, Lando Cabraao in the next round with another heavily — contested bout. Rico led the game when he produced a heavy from the 4th frame, but allowed Lando to close in on the 7th frame due to a split. Inspired by his double strikes on the 5th and 6th frames, Lando had a spare then another double thus making the score even at 160 on the 8th frame, but he had to bow out of the match when he blew his spare on the last frame, thus giving Rico a one pin advantage (187 - 186).

In the 2 game series match for the championship, Rico challenged the top qualifier, Mar Evangelista, who immediately showed — off with a double whereas Rico missed in his first three frames. Rico recovered in the 4th frame but was unable to stop the hot — handed Mario who won by 37 pins over Rico the first game. Rico then proved his mettle in the final match when he overshadowed Mario in the first half of the game but the latter's fire raged and made a turkey of Brooklyn shots, unyielding to Rico's strong determination to overcome the advantage in the first match. Mario eventually claimed victory with the final scores of 392 - 351 earning his first major championship cup in his bowling experience in Kuwait since he came in 1981.

Simultaneously, in the ladies division, Nitz Alinea displayed splendid bowling when she went up the ladder with continuous wins over her opponents. From 5th place, she overpowered Bela Guimao with a 192 over 176 game and had the chance to play against Arci Ruiz in the next rung of the ladder. Tension wracked Arci resulting to a lackadaisical performance hence poor scoring which yielded the game over to Nitz with the scores of 167 - 118.

Arci Boenecillo's brilliant form did not deter the winning streak of the more experienced Nitz who allowed the former to close — in but Nitz claimed triumph with a final 195 - 162 outcome.

Nitz was determined to win all the way against the top contender Lynne Reyes, until the 7th frame of the first match with her triple strikes, but Lynne found her marker and displayed her fighting form with a string of strikes from the 7th till the last frame finally edging out Nitz by a mere 7 pin difference (186 - 179).

Worn out by exhaustion, Nitz started to fail to cast her magic over Lynne who has woven her own spell by constantly marking in addition to a breathtaking conversion of the 1-2-4-10 pins to spare. The laudable performance by Alinea could have been capped with the championship trophy, but it is definitely Lynne Reyes' turn to take home the bacon after 8 years of playing bowling in Kuwait.

Both Mario and Lynne have won recognition in high game, high series, and memberships in champion teams in the past, but 1989 annual championships titles undoubtedly puts the elusive feather in their hats, at last!

## Maradona hits out at critics

ARGENTINE soccer wizard Diego Maradona fired a Christmas broadside at Napoli's critics but reserved some seasonal cheer for his fans after masterminding the Italian League leaders 2-0 win over Bologna at the weekend.

Their victory on Sunday took Napoli four points clear at the top and provided a timely answer to sports press and supporters' charges of lackluster play this season.

"I want to say that people who accuse Napoli of playing badly have got it completely wrong. We've got the winning mentality," happy Christmas, "a general Maradona told a wall of fans in his first heart-to-heart with admirers in a month.

The Argentine captain set up goals for Brazil's Cesara and Marco Baroni against mid-table Bologna, providing a fitting reminder of his credentials ahead of an international friendly between Italy and Argentina on Thursday.

But Italian national manager Azeglio Vicini has lots to worry about as three of his squad were struck down with injury.

Napoli striker Andrea Carnevale twisted an ankle before the Bologna match and did not play, Sampdoria forward Roberto Mancini pulled a thigh muscle, and Fiorentina's Roberto Baggio said he would undergo fitness tests before Thursday's match, in Cagliari on the island of Sardinia.

The battle for the Spanish and Dutch championships took on a traditional look as Real Madrid confirmed their national supremacy with a 5-1 maundering of lowly Logrono and Ajax Amsterdam snuffed it out with defending champions PSV Eindhoven.

The pack chasing Real thinned to three teams — Barcelona, Valencia and Atletico Madrid — but on current goal-scoring form Real will be hard to catch.

A hat-trick by Mexican Hugo Sanchez strengthened his position as the League's top scorer with 18 and took Real's tally to 48 in 16 games, 12 more than Barcelona.

Barcelona had to wait until the 74th minute to clinch a 1-0 win in Malaga on a pitch sodden by a month of rain on the Costa del Sol. "It's impossible to play soccer on such a pitch," Dutch coach Johan Cruyff said.

Cruyff's former team Ajax snatched first place in the Dutch League with a 3-0 home victory against lowly Nec Nijmegen.

PSV, with two games in hand, are one point behind after a second a hat-trick by Brazilian striker Romario inspired them to a 4-0 home win against bottom side Haarlem on Saturday.

But both PSV and Ajax were criticised for dull play in their last matches before Dutch soccer's winter break.

From the moment that it was clear there was no more contest, Ajax went to sleep to such a staggering extent that the game was about as exciting as a visit to one's mother-in-law on Christmas, the mass-circulation *Telegraaf* lamented.

**Lipton**

**THEY STRUCK GOLD**

December 16th Lipton Gold Rush Winners

Winner of 1st Prize Half Kg Gold Ahmad Ismail Tufic Mohammad 1 89723

100 gr. Gold	Bassem Raja Abdulkader	Q 148438
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50 gr. Gold	Ali Hassan Wafa	J 93366
50 gr. Gold	Mohamed Mubarakkah	P 57968
50 gr. Gold	Mahmoud Mustafa Abdulla Shalabi	N 23288
50 gr. Gold	Hadi Karameh Tayseer	P 109647
50 gr. Gold	Youssef Abdulkarim Halez Khodeir	R 134699
50 gr. Gold	Hussein Noroz Kaudi	M 136143
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Nomiki Tea Set	Naser Saleem Tareesh	Q 109438
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Nomiki Tea Set	Ali Mohamad Mazayad	L 38750
Nomiki Tea Set	Lina Subhi Khalil Yussef Abdulla	M 146606
Nomiki Tea Set	Joseph D'Souza	R 177719
Contingency No.1	C. Suranand	A 76164
Contingency No.2	Sarah Hasan Khaliq	G 7691
Contingency No.3	Nicolas Tazhar	C 117976
Contingency No.4	Abduh Abdulaiziz	C 47934
Contingency No.5	Arata Al-Zadani	C 100916

Winners will be notified individually. Lipton Gold Rush entries in boxes, are located at the following points. You may put your Gold Rush entries in these boxes in boxes:

**CO-OP**  
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Safra - Abdulla Al-Salem - Rawda - Hawalli - Shabab - Fahaleh  
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Arabi - Farwaniya - Khatan - Sabah - Al-Salem

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New Modern Super Mkt, Farwaniya - Abbasiya Super Mkt, Abbasiya  
Edeco General Store, Salma - Al-Balad Super Mkt, Fahaleh  
M.A. Al-Balad Warehouse, Shuwaikh

**ANOTHER PYRAMID**

M.I.S. is pleased to announce that G.T.C Paints has ordered a Pyramid SuperMini Computer. The system will be running an integrated manufacturing and production control system specifically developed by M.I.S. for G.T.C. This is the third Pyramid to be installed by M.I.S.

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